Jiu Jiu,

Story & Art by

Touya Tobina

4

Jiu Jiu

Vol. 4

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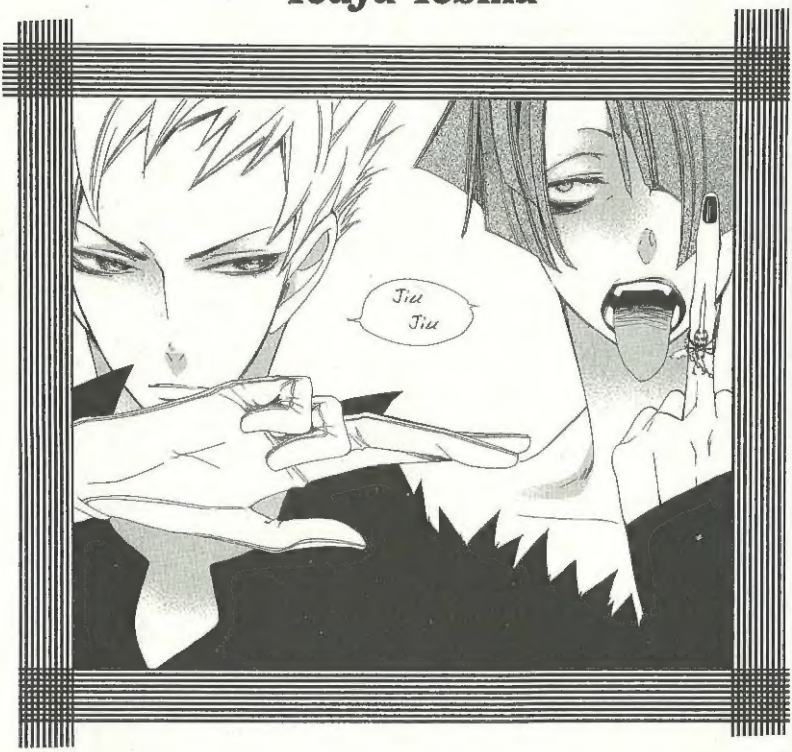

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JIU JIU
—獣従—
WALK 16: JUMBLE

SOMETIMES THEY MEAN PEOPLE HARM.

MON-STERS ...

THOSE WHO RID THE WORLD OF MONSTERS ARE CALLED...

...HUNTERS.

AND I AM THE HEIR OF THE HEAD FAMILY OF A HUNTER CLAN...

... TAKA-MICHI -CHI-

MIS-TRESS TAKA-MICHI!

PLEASE! KEEP YOUR HEAD DOWN!

THEIR LEADER COULD BE LURKING SOMEWHERE NEARBY.
...
IT... IS?
FOR PITY'S SAKE!
THIS AREA IS CRAWLING WITH SPUNKIES!

TWO JIU JIU...!

IS THAT OUTFIT SUPPOSED TO BE A JOKE...?

THESE TWO ARE THE FAMILIARS OF MONSTER HUNTERS.

CROW TENGU: RIPPLE

SICKLE WEASEL AND TRANSFORMING FOX: WHITE

IT'S JUST A SCHOOL UNIFORM. WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

OH COME ON, WHITE! HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU NOT TO TRANSFORM INTO THAT?!

COME ON!

LET'S GO! ♪

AFTER ALL, WE'RE YOUR JIU JIU NOW, MISTRESS TAKAMICHI.
!! Go...? Go where?!
WHY, TO SCHOOL WITH YOU, OF COURSE, MISTRESS TAKAMICHI!
MY WOUND'S ALL HEALED UP, THANKS TO YOU.
OH, THAT'S OKAY! YOU DON'T HAVE TO ACCOMPANY ME TO SCHOOL!! NOPE, NOPE!
BUT SNOW AND NIGHT ATTENDED SCHOOL WITH YOU, DIDN'T THEY?
THAT MEANS...
...WE'VE GOT TO GO WITH YOU TOO.

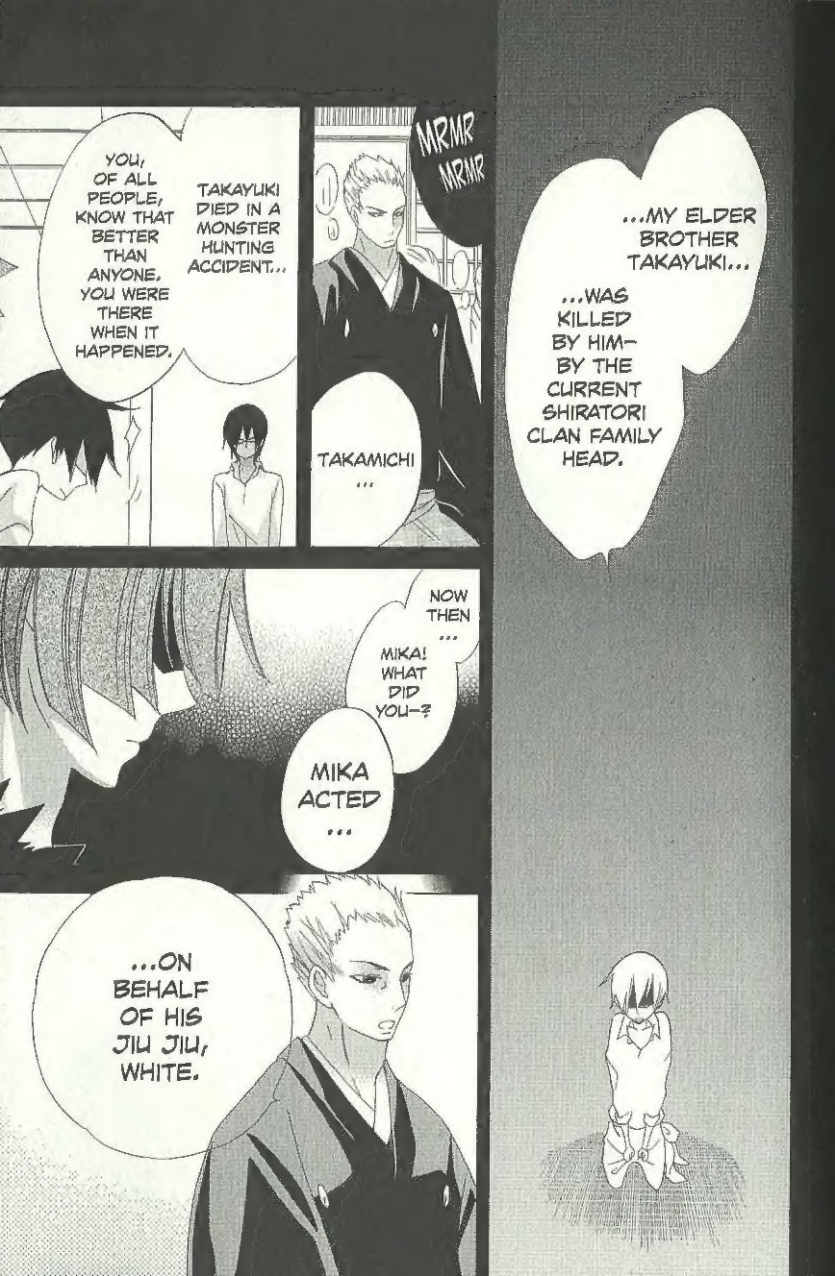
WELL...? EXPLAIN YOURSELF.

WHY DID YOU DRAW YOUR SWORD ON THE SHIRATORI CLAN FAMILY HEAD?

ANSWER ME, TAKAMICHI.

BE-CAUSE I HEARD THAT YUKI ...

HACHIOJI CLAN CURRENT FAMILY HEAD SHUREN HACHIOJI (TAKAMICHI'S FATHER)


...MY ELDER BROTHER TAKAYUKI...
...WAS KILLED BY HIM- BY THE CURRENT SHIRATORI CLAN FAMILY HEAD.
MRMR MRMR
TAKAMICHI ...
YOU, OF ALL PEOPLE, KNOW THAT BETTER THAN ANYONE. YOU WERE THERE WHEN IT HAPPENED.
TAKAYUKI DIED IN A MONSTER HUNTING ACCIDENT...
NOW THEN ...
MIKA! WHAT DID YOU-?
MIKA ACTED ...
...ON BEHALF OF HIS JIU JIU, WHITE.

I DIDN'T KNOW THEY WERE WHITE'S PARENTS AT THE TIME. I CAN'T IMAGINE THE SORROW OF LOSING ONE'S FAMILY...

WHEN I VISITED THE NEKOZANE HOUSE...

...I ACCIDENTALLY KILLED WHITE'S PARENTS.

THERE'S NO NEED TO STAND UP FOR HIM!

HE TRIED TO KILL YOU, YOU KNOW!

NO ...

I'M TO BLAME FOR THAT TRAGEDY.

AND- LUCKILY- THERE WERE NO HUMAN INJURIES.

WELL... THE CHILDREN SEEM TO HAVE LEARNT THEIR LESSON, SO LET'S GO EASY ON THEM.

BUT THAT DOESN'T RESOLVE ANYTHING.

AH, I SEE. YOU HAVE A GOOD HEART.

...

SNOW'S INJURY IS ALL MY FAULT...!
I'M REALLY SORRY!!
HOWEVER, I HEARD THAT...
...YOUNG MISTRESS TAKAMICHI'S JIU JIU SNOW WAS WOUNDED IN THE ENSUING FRAY.
WHAT HAPPENED? TELL ME.
!
RIPPLE...
SO EACH OF YOU BELIEVED YOU WERE ACTING IN THE INTERESTS OF YOUR MASTERS.
NOD
I SEE ...

WITH SUCH STRONG BONDS...

...THINK OF THE CONSE-QUENCES IF THEIR MASTERS TOOK A WRONG TURN.

AS YOU CAN SEE, THE HALF BLOODS AREN'T THE ONLY SOURCE OF THE TROUBLE THIS TIME.

HUMANS CAN BE UNSTABLE TOO, YOU KNOW.

SHUREN, DON'T YOU THINK IT'S DANGEROUS TO EMPLOY SUCH UNSTABLE CREATURES AS SERVANTS?

IF SOMETHING LIKE THAT WERE TO OCCUR, WE'D HAVE A BIG PROBLEM ON OUR HANDS IF THE HALF BLOODS WERE UNWILLING TO FOLLOW ANOTHER PERSON'S ORDERS.

!

SI-LENCE, HALF BLOOD!

THAT WILL NEVER HAPPEN !!

UM ... I WAS ONLY SPEAKING HYPO-THETI-CALLY.

RIGHT.

IF THEIR MASTER WERE TO DIE, THEN...

THEY MUST BE WILLING TO GIVE OBEISANCE TO ANYONE.

!

...SOME SORT OF... EXCHANGE PROGRAM?

HOW ABOUT...

How's your wound..?
Uh-huh.
You too, Takamichi.
Be good, okay?
Not too bad.
Take care of yourself, all right?
AFTER OLD HEBIZUKA'S DECREE THE FAMILY HEAD MEETING WAS CONCLUDED.
AN... EX-CHANGE ?
OF JIU JIU ...?
YES.
IF THEY TURN OUT TO BE INTRACTABLE AFTER THAT, WE'LL DISPOSE OF THEM.
TUP
SNOW ...
TAKAMICHI ...
...
MISTRESS TAKAMICHI ...
NIGHT ...
...

WHEN WE COME BACK...

...MAKE SURE TO TELL US WHAT GOOD DOGS WE WERE, OKAY? PROMISE?

PROM-ISE.

GO ON NOW!

AND SEIJURO'S JIU JIU RIPPLE...

SCHOOL IS REALLY BORING, YOU KNOW!!

AND NOW I HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF MIKA'S JIU JIU, WHITE...

Don't worry. We're not expecting to play and have fun with you.

That's right!

AND SO I WAS SEPARATED FROM SNOW AND NIGHT UNTIL THE END OF THE YEAR- AND THE NEXT FAMILY HEAD MEETING.

...IS THERE SOME *OTHER* REASON YOU DON'T WANT US TO GO TO SCHOOL WITH YOU? A *SECRET* REASON?

WAIT... MISTRESS TAKAMICH. ...

Hey!

Wait!

One year later, Jiu Jiu volume 4...

Are you guy's comin' after me?!

Uh... Well, to be exact, you ladies!!

?? Well, 80% ladies...!

Snow and Night are almost four years old. That would make them about thirty years old according to the age ratio for large dogs, right? Or would they age differently because they're half human?

Hyogo Prefecture: Chinatty

Um, well, you know, some people do look young for their age. I think that explains it. But then again I kind of like the idea of middle-aged Night and Snow!

Hello! Tobi-meow here.

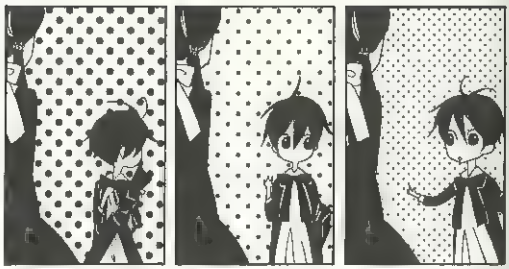
What gender are you, Tobina?

Tottori Prefecture: Tobunki and many others

I've received a lot of questions about this. I hope you're not disappointed that I'm female! Hmph. I have such a strange name!

From now on, I'll call myself Touya♀Tobina!

But that's kind of awkward. And it looks kind of... you know...



OH...
THAT CLOUD LOOKS LIKE SNOW.

IT'S A SNOW CLOUD.

IT'S BEEN A MONTH NOW.

HOW ARE YOU GUYS DOING ...?

NIGHT?

IRK

WHAT WAS THAT?!

Huh?

YOUR TONE SOUNDS HOSTILE...

YOU SLY FOX...

DON'T MAKE FUN OF CREW-CUTS!!

YOUR MASTER HAS A CREW-CUT! IN THIS DAY AND AGE?! IS HE TRYING TO MAKE SOME KIND OF POINT?!

DON'T INSULT MIKA LIKE THAT!

WHAT IS IT WITH YOUR HAIR?! DO YOU WANT IT LONG OR SHORT?! MAKE UP YOUR MIND!

I WOULD SO LOVE TO WHACK THEM...

IRK

IRK

ALL I'D NEED TO DO IS GIVE THEM A KONK ON THE SNOUT TO PUT AN END TO IT.

IF SNOW AND NIGHT WERE SQUABBLING...

SNOW?

CHMP
SHNK

WOULD YOU CUT THAT OUT?!

HEY!

...EVERY TIME WE GO HUNTING!

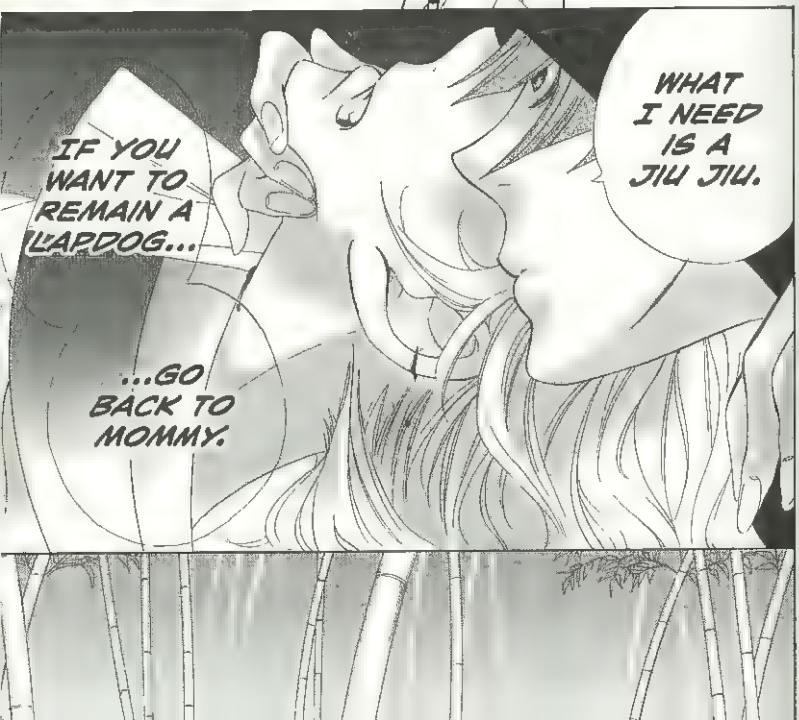
YOU KEEP SWINGING THAT HEAVY CHAIN IN MY DIRECTION ...

KLNG

WHAT IF IT HITS M-

!

IF IT HITS YOU...
...YOU DIE. THAT'S ALL THERE IS TO IT.


WHAT I NEED IS A JIU JIU.
IF YOU WANT TO REMAIN A LAPDOG...
...GO BACK TO MOMMY.

I CAN HEAR TAKAMICHI CRYING.

ROLL

ROLL

ROLL

Are you able to sleep at night?

TAKAMICHI
...

ggg
KOOL
KOOL
KOOL
THAT...
...WOULD BE NICE.
I CAN TAKE A BATH ON MY OWN!
F-f-
DON'T WANT TO!
BUT I'M WARNING YOU IN ADVANCE ...
...THERE'S NO POINT IN TRYING TO WIN ME OVER!
OWW...

HIS HAIR HAS GROWN.

...

YOU DON'T LIKE ME?

NO. I DON'T LIKE YOU.

OHH...

PLEASE BRUSH MY TAIL GENTLY.

SIGH

I WANT A RIBBON.

WHAT DO I NEED TO CHANGE...?

Like I said ...

...a ribbo—

I MEAN...

What's wrong with a crew-cut?

Seijuro naturally ended up with bi-colored hair after I initially established his character as a partially fledged swan.

But when I was drawing him, I noticed. . Hey, this isn't a crew-cut after all!! He ended up looking like Takamichi's doctor, Gen. (Although Gen actually has white hair.)

The reason his hair is growing out now isn't because he changed his mind about liking crew-cuts! It's just because he's so busy with Night that he doesn't have time to get a haircut!

After all, **personally**, I love crew-cuts.♡

Why does Ripple like the color white so much?

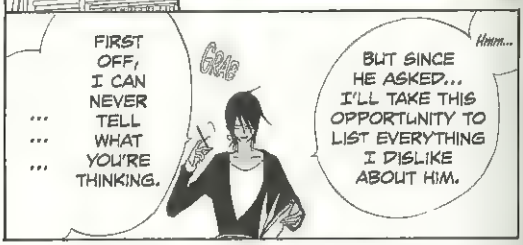
Gunma Prefecture: Myoya

Okay, I'm going to keep answering your questions (from time to time).

As a member of the Shiratori* clan, Ripple has always wanted to be white But since that will never happen...she at least wants her progeny to be white. I haven't written anything about it yet, but Seijuro's elder brother Kankuro, the family head of the Shiratori clan, has an albino Jiu Jiu named Tsunami. And that's why she's so hung up on the color white.

Oh, wow I've written such a proper answer

*WHITE BIRD


FIRST OFF, I CAN NEVER TELL WHAT YOU'RE THINKING.
...
...
...
GRAB
Hmm...
BUT SINCE HE ASKED... I'LL TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO LIST EVERYTHING I DISLIKE ABOUT HIM.

HE'S A GOOD GUY.

MISTRESS TAKAMICHI...

SHE PROMISED SHE'LL ALWAYS WANT US BY HER SIDE...

IF HE WASN'T MISTRESS TAKAMICHI'S FIANCÉ, I WOULD...

...THAT IT DOESN'T MATTER IF SEIJURO IS HER FIANCÉ!

I WANT TO SEE...
BUT I...
BUT...
...WANT TO BE BY MISTRESS TAKAMICHI'S SIDE MORE THAN ANYONE!
...MISTRESS TAKAMICHI ALL THE TIME! I WANT TO SEE HER RIGHT NOW!

RIPPLE'S HERE?!

NOT AS DELUSIONAL AS YOU, MS. CROW.

WELL, MAYBE YOU MIXED BLOODS ARE DELUSIONAL?!

OH—?!

Morning.

Morning.

PURE-BLOODS LIKE YOU ARE SUCH SNOBS!

!

WE'RE HERE.

HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO CONTINUE THIS POINTLESS DISCUSSION?

IT'S NOT POINTLESS!!

A... VAMPIRE ?!
WAHLZANDTS MELT
VAMPIRE PRINCE
WHAT'S A GUY LIKE THAT DOING IN A PLACE LIKE THIS ...?!
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT...!

A CROW AND A SLY SICKLE-FOX.

HA!

ARE THOSE THE REPLACEMENTS FOR THE PUPS I HEARD ABOUT?

OH

THEY'RE SUBS, YES.

DUCK

Don't touch me.

MAYBE SO.

...

A SLY FOX? I BETTER BE CAREFUL THEN 'CAUSE I'M SO FLY!

MORNING.

HACHIOJI, IT'S MERU THE VAMPIRE.

RABBLE

RABBLE

FRIENDLY ?!

GOOD MORNING, TAKAMICHI.

Good morning. Who are they?

IRK

IRK

II A

HUH?

MISTRESS TAKAMICHI!!

THEY KNOW!!

TP TP TP

Where do you get your hair done?
WHAT IS THAT DOING IN A HUMAN SCHOOL?!
You're so tall. And your hair's so long too...
THAT
Classmate...?
MERU IS MY CLASSMATE.
...AND THE GIRL WHO IS HIS FATE.
THE PRINCE...
THAT'S A VAMPIRE!
What did you eat for breakfast?
Do you believe in horoscopes?
What do you do on the weekends?
Are you a cool person? Or a sensitive person?
EEK
M-Mistress Takamichi!!
HMPH.
I CAN'T BELIEVE MISTRESS TAKAMICHI!
...curious.
Very...
DON'T WORRY.
YOU'LL FIT INTO THIS CLASS SOON TOO.
When's your birthday?
Or the soba noodle type?
Are you an udon noodle kind of guy?
WHAT?
We've got all sorts of questions for you!

THIS SEEMS TO BE THE ROOFTOP...

MISS CROW...

I WAS JUST ABOUT TO REVEAL WHAT MY FAVORITE FOOD WAS TO THEM TOO!

Kittens!

HOW COULD SHE ABANDON US TO THAT MOB?!

So mean!

I SENSE MISTRESS TAKAMICHI'S PRESENCE ...

...BEHIND THOSE DOORS.

...!!

Don't touch me!

ALL DONE!
OH MY! MISTRESS TAKAMICHI IS HAVING AN AFFAIR... WITH A VAMPIRE?!
THIS IS A MAJOR PROBLEM ...!
WHAT A FORMAL AFFAIR THIS IS!!
LOOK AT THIS FANCY BED ON THE SCHOOL ROOF...!

...IS MISTRESS TAKAMICHI'S SECRET.

SO THIS...

Scanner: Silver Ame

I KEEP TELLING YOU... THEIR FACES TOTALLY LOOK MORE EVIL THAN THAT.

SNOW ...

NIGHT ...

KLAP KLAP
AAAAAAAH!!
They've turned into stars!!
PHEW.
NOW THAT WAS REFRESHING.
GASP
HER FACE DOESN'T MATCH HER WORDS!!

WE'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS...

BRR

I'M JUST GETTING STARTED! ♡

BRR

THUMP

SHOOP SHOOP

Hey! Come back here!

THUMP

IF SHE EVER PUNCHED *ME* LIKE THAT, IT WOULD KILL ME DEAD, I'M SURE OF IT!

WHACK

TNK TNK TNK TNK TNK

Take this! And that!

M-M-MISTRESS TAKAMICHI MUST BE REALLY STRESSED OUT!!

WHAT

BA-BUMP

ME TOO!

CONFERRING ABOUT HOW TO KILL ME, ARE YOU?

AH-HAH.

Boooom
I'LL HOLD HIM STILL!
WHITE, YOU DELIVER THE FINISHING BLOW!
GOTCHA, RIPPLE!
Hmm...
I'M PLAYING WITH YOU.
YOU OUGHT TO FEEL HONORED.

YOU DO ANYTHING TO HARM THEM AND I'LL KILL YOU.

YOU CUT IT OUT TOO, MERU.

!

RIPPLE!

KEEP YOUR HANDS OFF MERU!

WHITE!

HP

WE WERE ONLY PLAYING.

THAT'S SO DUMB...

THIS IS A VAMPIRE! A CLASS-A DANGEROUS SPECIES, YOU KNOW!

...WHY NOT JUST KILL HIM NOW AND GET IT OVER WITH?

IF YOU'RE GOING TO THREATEN HIM...

YOU'RE ...
...ALL THE SAME NOW. YOU'RE ALL MY CLASSMATES.
WHETHER YOU'RE A VAMPIRE OR A PUREBLOOD OR A HALF BLOOD...

I WANT...
WHO KNOWS WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO US?!
...WEREN'T ABLE TO PROTECT YOU FOR SOME REASON, OR IF WE CAUSED YOU TROUBLE...
IF WE...
WE ARE NOT THE SAME!

I WANT ...

...TO RETURN TO MIKA!

I WANT TO GO BACK TO MASTER SEIJURO!!

HEY! WHAT IS IT? WHAT? WHAT'S GOING ON?!

...AND OUR SERVICE TO OUR MASTERS ...

...ARE ALL ON THE LINE!

BUT THANKS TO THIS STUPID VAMP.RE ...

...THE LIVES OF EVERYONE AT THIS SCHOOL...

I WOULD NEVER DO ANYTHING TO AGGRIEVE TAKAMICHI.

What's the matter?!

THERE THERE. NO NEED TO BE SO PESSIMISTIC.

YAY!

YAY!

YAY!

I'M HEAD OVER HEELS IN LOVE WITH HER, CAN'T YOU SEE?
T-TMP
T-TMP
T-TMP
TAKAMICHI AND I WERE JUST TESTING OUR LOVE.
OH, MERU! WHAT WAS THAT EXPLOSION JUST NOW?
Really? That's so, so... lecherous!!

RIPPLE...

...ARE JUST LIKE ME.

...AND WHITE...

I WANT TO RETURN TO MIKA!

I WANT TO GO BACK TO MASTER SEIJURO!!

OH!

FLOOP

I'M SORRY...
I DIDN'T REALIZE HOW ANXIOUS YOU FELT HERE...
...
I DON'T FEEL ANXIOUS.
IT'S JUST THAT MASTER SEIJURO...
...ISN'T VERY GOOD AT EXPRESSING HIMSELF.
I'M WORRIED NIGHT WON'T UNDERSTAND HIM.
WELL, I'M EVEN MORE WORRIED ABOUT MIKA.
HE CAN BE SO COLD SOMETIMES.
MY SEIJURO IS STONE-FACED AND SILENT TOO.
I'm worried.
My...
MIKA IS A WALKING BUNDLE OF NERVES...
I'm worried.
My...

THOSE TWO ARE LUCKY.

THEIR SERVANTS ARE SO DEVOTED TO THEM.

Ha.

...AND NIGHT.

ABOUT SNOW...

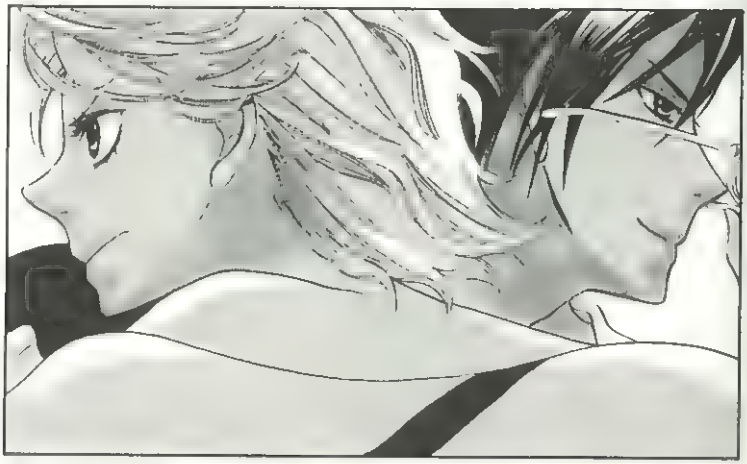
I'M SORRY...

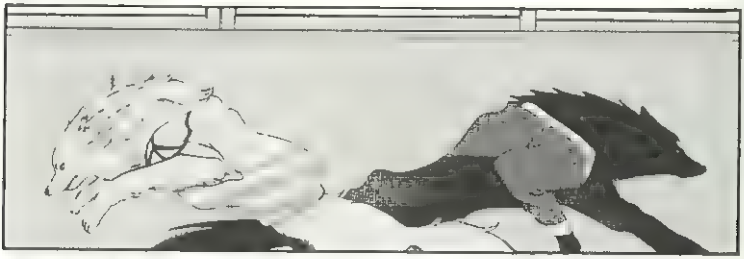
YOU MUST BE WORRIED TOO.

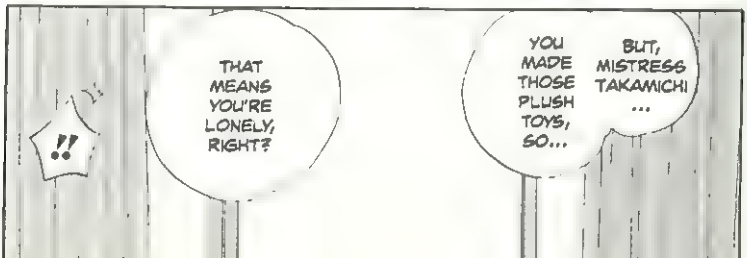
NO.
I BELIEVE IN THEM. I KNOW...
...THEY CAN HANDLE THIS.
THEY'RE THE ONES WHO ARE PROBABLY WORRIED- ABOUT ME.
LIKE YOU TWO.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING BACK HERE?

LOOK WHO'S TALKING.






!!
THAT MEANS YOU'RE LONELY, RIGHT?
YOU MADE THOSE PLUSH TOYS, SO...
BUT, MISTRESS TAKAMICHI ...

BE-SIDES ...

MIKA IS BEAUTIFUL TOO...

→BEAUTIFUL?!

HEARING YOU SAY THAT WITH THAT FACE...

You have the same voice too.

White... Would you please turn into your animal form?

BUT I CAN'T TALK UNLESS I'M IN HUMAN FORM!

I FEEL LONELY.

I'M NOT LONELY!

Those plush toys are just... punching bags.

Sigh...

Mika...

WHEN MIKA KISSED ME...

...AND HIS FACE WAS UP CLOSE TO MINE...

I DIDN'T THINK SO. NOT ONE BIT.

AREN'T *YOU* THE ONE WHO SEDUCED *HIM*?!

ARGH! JUST REMEM-BERING IT ANNOYS ME...

HELL NO!

What's up with him anyway?

AT THE FAMILY HEAD MEETING THE OTHER DAY.

Sounds like you didn't hold back!

W-W-W-What?!

KISSED YOU?! WHEN?!

• • •

I THOUGHT YOU WERE JUST WEIRD, BUT NOW I PITY YOU.
DON'T THINK YOU'RE SPECIAL JUST BECAUSE HE GAVE YOU ONE LITTLE KISS!
I DON'T THINK I'M SPECIAL!
PUFF
SEDUCING WOMEN JUST COMES NATURAL TO MIKA.
YOU BELONG TO MASTER SEIJURO, MISTRESS TAKAMICHI!!
What's wrong with you two?
YOU MEAN... ABOUT HOW MUCH HE RESENTS ME?!
What?!
SHE FORCED T OUT OF HIM
I ASKED MASTER SEJURO ABOUT THE FAMILY HEAD MEETING TEN YEARS AGO!
I asked all kinds of things!!
And how I pushed him in the river?
OH, BUT MAYBE MASTER MIKA STILL HASN'T GOTTEN OVER HIS FEELINGS FOR MISTRESS TAKAMICHI...
Huh?!
HE HAS FEELINGS FOR HER?!
FORGIVE ME FOR ASKING, BUT... HAVE YOU EVER FALLEN IN LOVE?
WHAT'S LOVE?
MISTRESS TAKAMICHI ...

IT'S AN ILLNESS— AN ILLNESS THAT COMPLETELY FILLS YOUR MIND AND BODY WITH THOUGHTS OF SOMEONE.

Uh-huh

AN ILLNESS...

THAT'S RIGHT!

WHAT A PAIN.

Not my kind of thing.

OR YOU START TO IDOLIZE THAT PERSON— LIKE WHITE!

It's all the same sickness!

IF YOU CAN'T FULFILL YOUR DESIRE, YOU BECOME PARALYZED— LIKE MASTER SEIJURO.

WHEN YOU GET INFECTED, YOU'RE SUDDENLY OVERCOME WITH THE URGE TO BE CLOSE TO THAT PERSON— LIKE MASTER MIKA WAS.

ARE YOU *SURE* YOU AREN'T HAVING A RELATIONSHIP WITH THAT VAMPIRE?

BY THE WAY, MISTRESS TAKAMICHI.

I'm not.

I DON'T GET IT.

BECAUSE IT'S AN ILLNESS!

BUT YOU CAN'T RESIST IT!

THAT'S RIGHT! LOVE IS A PAIN!

I'M EXHAUSTED ...
SNOW ...
NIGHT ...
STAY!
!

Mistress Takamichi looked beautiful as she did the two-step.

Played Frisbee with Mistress Takamichi today. The way she throws the Frisbee is so

FLP FLP

FWOMP

Snow always hugs Mistress Takamichi. I'm a bit—no, very—uncomfortable with it.

Mistress Takamichi! You need to resist!

I thought an angel landed before me. But to my surprise, it was Mistress Takamichi!

Mistress Takamichi asked me, "What would happen if you got a sunburn?!" So I climbed onto the roof underneath the blazing midday sun to find out. But Mistress Takamichi didn't even notice

My eyes meet Mistress Takamichi's a lot these days. I don't know what to do when you gaze at me like that!

Snow is always daydreaming and gazing up at the sky these days. When I ask him what the matter is he just laughs and won't tell me. What

I catch Mistress Takamichi smiling a lot lately. I think Snow's smile has softened too. I felt really good this morning. Not surprising, since I dreamed about Mistress Takamichi! I want to spend more time with her...

...morning, noon and night...

THIS ISN'T A DIARY. IT'S ALL ABOUT SNOW AND ME...

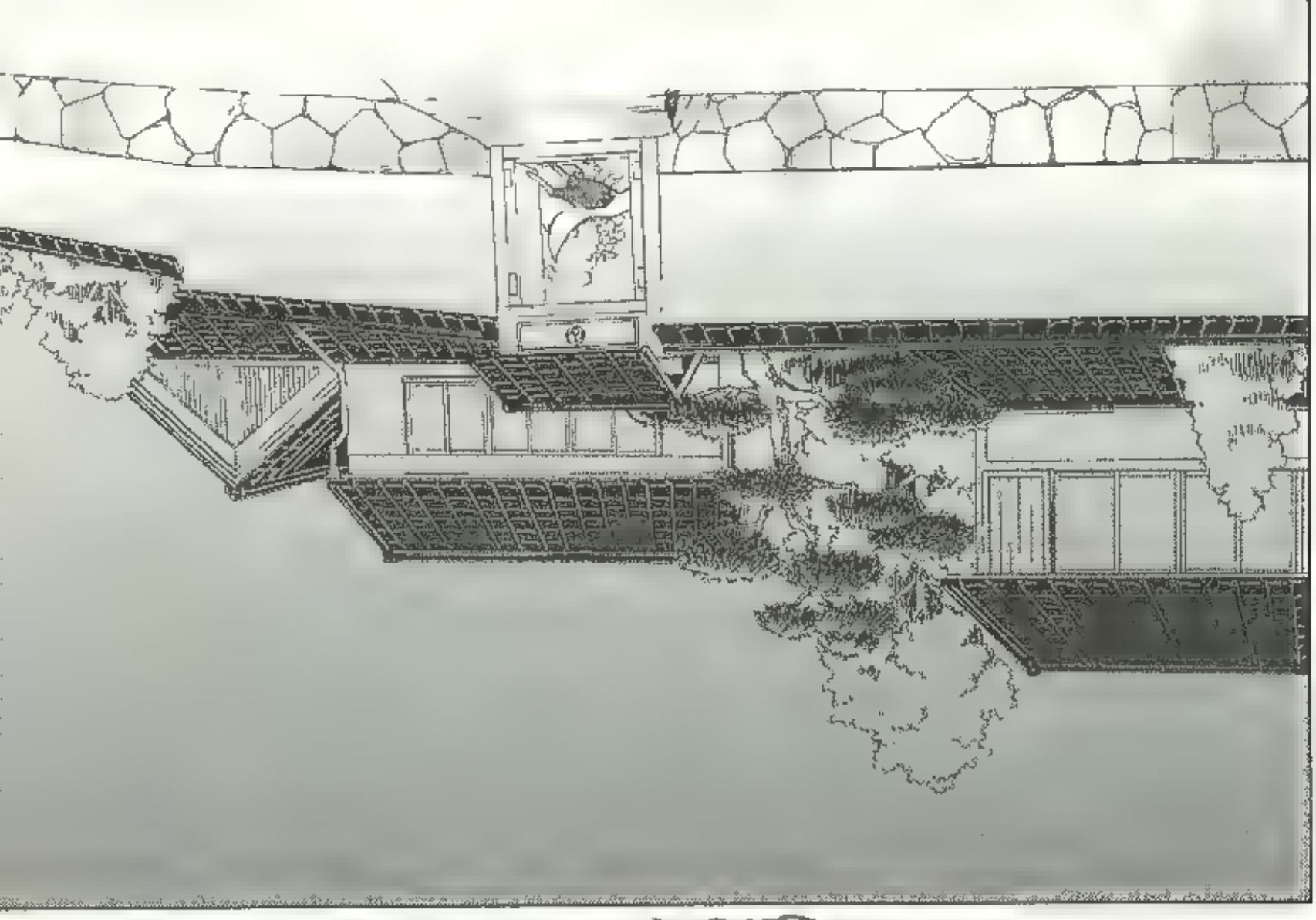
I want to be with Mistress Takamichi all the time.

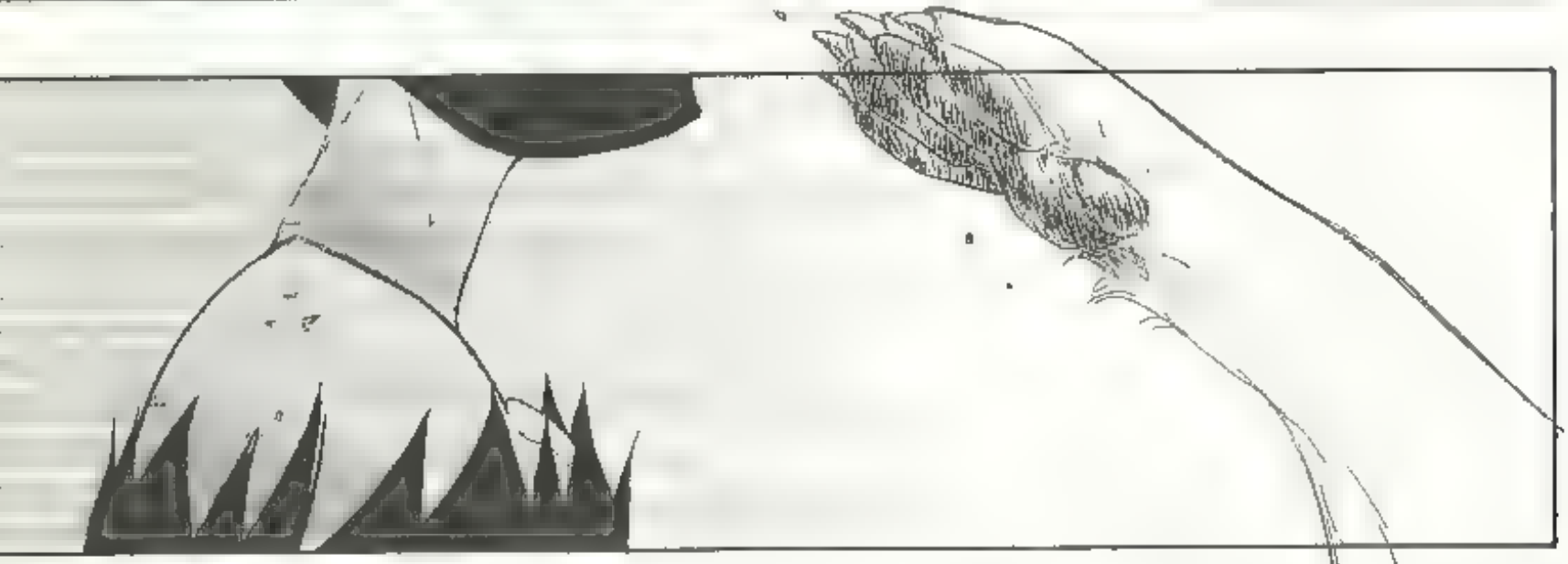
...AN ILLNESS THAT COMPLETEY FILLS YOUR MIND AND BODY WITH THOUGHTS OF SOMEONE.
...
IT CAN'T BE...

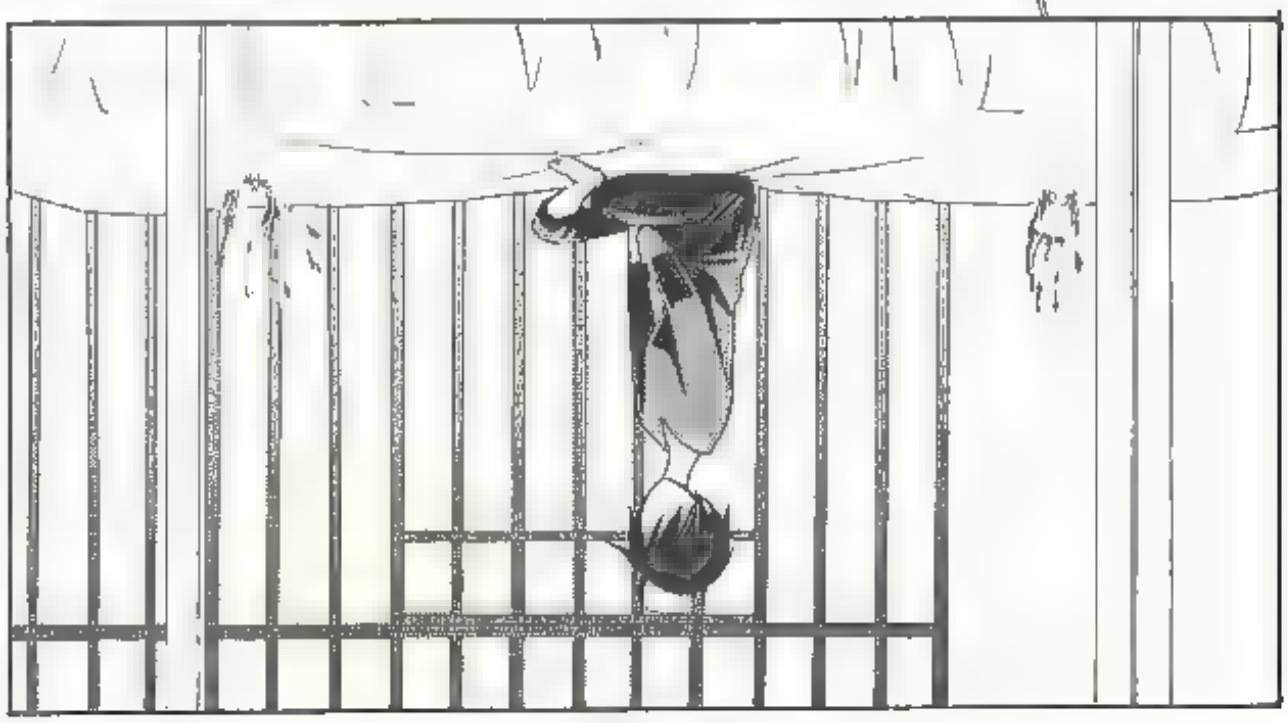
IT CAN'T ...

... BE.

WALK 17: BEYOND LOVE?







CHIRP

CHIRP

CHIRP

DON'T SHOOT!
KLATR

TH

OK

HUAP

THOK

THOK

THOK

TH

OK

I'M SORRY, HAKU.

SORRY.

I'M SORRY I'M STILL ALIVE.
大学
IT SCARES ME.
MRMR
MRMR
WHAT A BIG DOG!
...
THIS WAY...

DID YOU GO VISIT HER?

FROM A DISTANCE...

I JUST WENT TO CHECK ON HER.

!

DON'T LOOK.

WE'RE BEING WATCHED.

I'M SURROUNDED BY UNFAMILIAR SCENTS...
THIS IS MEANT TO BE A TEST, YOU KNOW.
SO IT SHOULDN'T COME AS A SURPRISE...
THIS PRES-ENCE ...
...I FEEL IS...
SHFF
ANYWAY, I WOULD LIKE YOU TO REFRAIN...
...FROM DOING ANYTHING TO CALL ATTENTION TO YOURSELF.
WAS SHE...
GLOOM
WAS MISTRESS TAKAMICHI DOING WELL?
...
I HAVE MIXED FEELINGS ABOUT IT, BUT... YES, SHE WAS.
I SEE.

SHE SEEMED WORRIED ABOUT YOU.

...

SHE WAS GOOD. VERY GOOD.

I SEE... I HAVE MIXED FEELINGS ABOUT THAT TOO.

AND HOW WAS RIPPLE...?

...

I DON'T DISLIKE YOU.

EXCUSE ME, BUT...

IS THAT SO...?

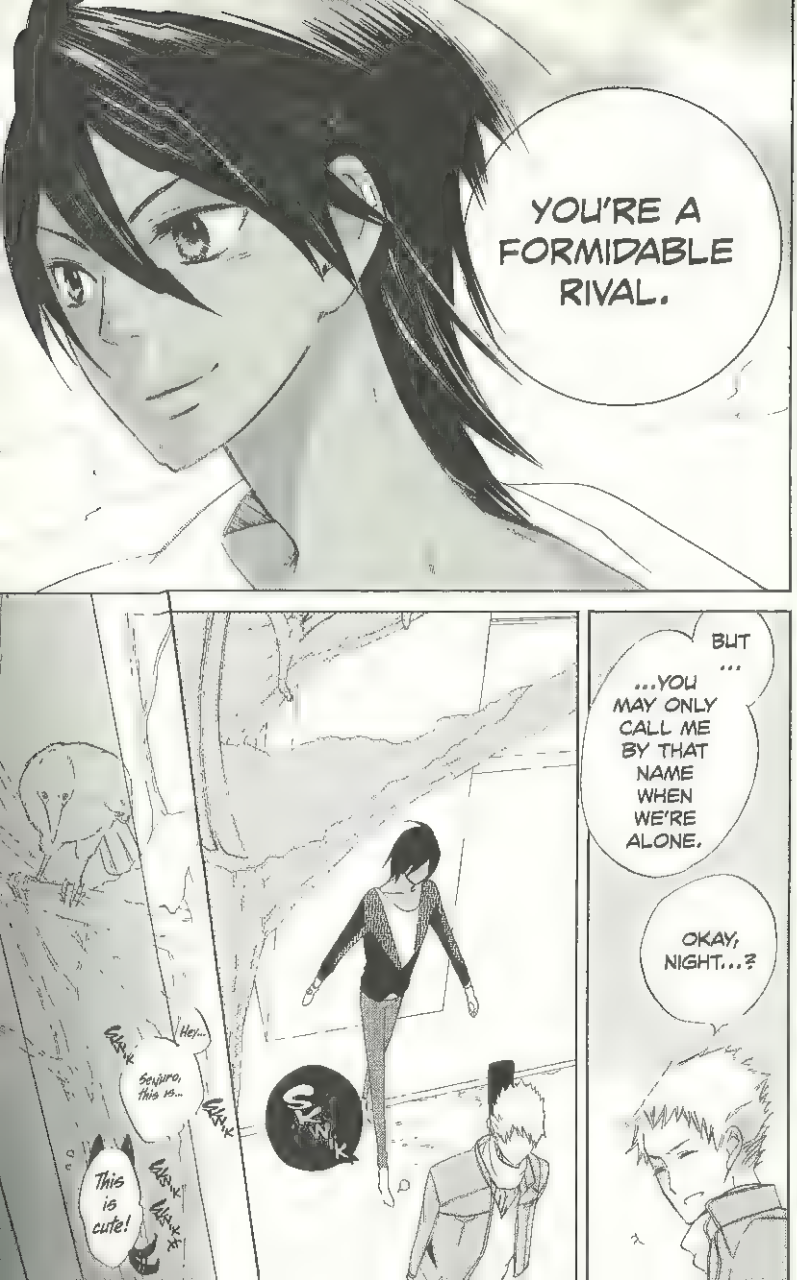
...COULD YOU WAIT FOR ME HERE FOR A COUPLE OF HOURS?

BUT...
YOU...
...ASKED ME IF I DID BEFORE, REMEMBER?
I DON'T DISLIKE YOU.

...I HAVE NO INTENTION OF LETTING YOU HAVE MISTRESS TAKAMICHIoo

...

SEIJURO!


YOU'RE A FORMIDABLE RIVAL.
BUT ...
...YOU MAY ONLY CALL ME BY THAT NAME WHEN WE'RE ALONE.
OKAY, NIGHT...?
SQUISH
Hey...
Seijuro, this is...
This is cute!

...ARE "IN LOVE" WITH ME?

SNOW ...

...AND NIGHT...

SNIP

I'VE MADE ANOTHER PAIR.
(ALL-IN-ONE-BREATH MONOTONE)

AHH...

MISS HACHIOJI...
ARE YOU GOING TO PASS?
KLANK
OH, WASHI...
YOU'RE A REGULAR AT THE MAKEUP EXAMS, AREN'T YOU, HACHIOJI?
Hachioji hasn't been in the makeup group lately...
Traitor...
Good luck, Taka!
REGULAR MAKEUP EXAM MEMBERS
OOH, THOSE ARE ADORABLE...
BUT...
...LET'S NOT SEW DURING YOUR TEST, OKAY?
SHWOOP
YOU'VE SURE MADE A LOT OF...
...dog plush toys.
AND THIS WAS EXAM WEEK TOO...

USED TO BARELY GET PASSING GRADES.

Heh heh.

I'VE BEEN STUDYING WITH SNOW AND NIGHT SO MY GRADES HAVE GONE UP.

Oh!

I KNOW WHY!

YOU...

ALL-IN-ONE-BREATH MONO-TONE

YOU LIKE SEWING, DON'T YOU, HACHIOJI?

YOU'RE VERY GOOD AT IT.

UH-HUH.

UH-HUH.

AND SNOW IS JUST NATURALLY SMART. AMAZING, ISN'T IT?

NIGHT STUDIES HARD, SO HE KNOWS A LOT.

(ALL-IN-ONE-BREATH MONOTONE)

THOSE STUFFED ANIMALS LOOK JUST LIKE SNOW AND NIGHT.

...

And fast.

...

...

NIGHT ALWAYS HAS THE RIBBON AND LACE COLLAR.
Ha...
THIS ONE'S NIGHT AND THIS ONE'S SNOW.
You made a dog tower!!
Ooh, Washi! Wow!
Ooooh...
Call me...
...a professional.
YOU GET SO TALKATIVE WHEN THE SUBJECT IS SNOW AND NIGHT, HACHIOJI.
Huh?
OH, I GET IT!
A professional architect! A pro at building dog towers, right! Washi?
COOL!
...
FULL ...?
FWOP
ZLOOP
TELL ME YOUR SECRET, HACHIOJI!!
...BUT YOU STILL MANAGE TO GET PASSING GRADES?!
HOW COME YOUR HEAD'S FULL OF SNOWY AND NIGHT-NIGHT...
Come here...
Yes! Monkeys.

OH, SPEAKING OF SNOW AND NIGHT...

...IT'S ALMOST THEIR BIRTHDAY, ISN'T IT?

HOW'D YOU DO ON YOUR EXAM, MERU?

ISN'T IT DECEMBER 26?

THEIR... BIRTHDAY?

YOU FORGOT?!

HAVE YOU THOUGHT OF A PRESENT YET?

...

FOUR YEARS OLD.

WHY DON'T WE ALL GO OUT AFTER SCHOOL TODAY TO BUY THEM PRESENTS?

HEY, HACHIOJI! SINCE EXAM WEEK IS OVER...

Idiot.

Nooooo...

TO BUY A LEASH.

NO!

I've been meaning to for a while now and—

I'LL BUY THEM A LEASH. TO TAKE THEM FOR WALKS.

A LEASH?!

A LEASH.

??

Leash?

Don't play with the test paper!

THAT'S AMAZING, HACHIOJI! EVEN I HAVEN'T DONE BONDAGE MYSELF...

YOU'RE IN MY WAY!
A LEASH ...
...
NO.
I'M GETTING THIS FOR NIGHT.
NOW ABOUT THIS?
It's super lace!
Lacy plus a ribbon!
WHAT ABOUT CLOTHES?
I BUY THEM CLOTHES EVERY NOW AND THEN... (AL.-IN-ONE BREATH)
I'll get them a Bible.
See? This one looks great.
Why not?!
OH. WASHI, THEY SELL HATS OVER THERE.
I'M NOT SURE HATS LOOK GOOD ON ME.
Of course they do.

THOSE TWO SEEM AWFULLY CLOSE...
YOU MEAN MIYAKANO AND WASHI?
THAT'S BECAUSE THEY'RE A COUPLE.
A... COUPLE?

YEAH, WE'RE DATING EACH OTHER.
THAT MAKES US A COUPLE, RIGHT?
?
WHAT? MIYAKANO AND ME?!
...
STARE...
HEY, YOU TWO!
ARE YOU A COUPLE? WHAT'S A COUPLE? (ALL-IN-ONE-BREATH)
RIGHT... JUST LIKE YOU AND ME, TAKA-MICHI.
WHAT'S A COUPLE?
UH, WELL ...
WHAT ?
NO!
You idiot!
SO YOU DATE... IF YOU'RE... IN LOVE WITH EACH OTHER? WHY? (ALL-IN-ONE-BREATH)
TWO PEOPLE WHO'RE IN LOVE WITH EACH OTHER, I GUESS?
...

WITH WHO?!

WHO ARE YOU IN LOVE WITH?!

SEEMS SO.

WHA?

Y-You're awfully talkative today, Hachioji...

COULD IT BE...

...THAT YOU'RE IN LOVE YOURSELF, HACHIOJI?

?!

SNOW AND NIGHT.

C'mon, let's find some.
'CAUSE YOU WANNA "NECK" WITH THEM! OR "TIE THE KNOT"?
LET'S GET THEM NECKTIES FOR THEIR BIRTHDAY PRESENTS THEN!!
AOKI
WHAT? A NECKTIE?
Both of them?!
ARE YOU PULLING MY LEG?
OH MY! TAKA-MICHI...!
PFFT
Pet Shop
Buy every tie they've got!
AND FOR THOSE TWO?!
YOU MADE A DECLARATION OF LOVE~ WHILE I WAS BUSY SHOPPING?!
NO!!
WOW! I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
I NEVER WOULD HAVE GUESSED SHE WAS IN LOVE WITH SNOWY AND NIGHT-NIGHT...

This is going to get nasty.

RIPPLY, YOU HAVE A CRUSH ON SNOWY?!

WHAT?!

OKAY, FOR THE SAKE OF ARGUMENT LET'S SAY THAT'S WHY. BUT YOU STILL CAN'T FALL IN LOVE WITH THOSE TWO!!

HMPH

OH... IT'S BECAUSE *YOU'RE* IN LOVE WITH SNOW. *Right, Ripple?*

BUT YOU *LIVE* WITH SNOWY AND NIGHT-NIGHT, DON'T YOU, HACHIOJI?

What's wrong, Ripple?

Who's Seijuro?

DO I HAVE TO?

YOU'RE GOING TO FALL IN LOVE WITH MASTER SEIJURO!

DON'T BE RIDICULOUS. SHE'S JUST CONFUSED.

I'M GOING TO HAVE TO OPEN HER EYES, THAT'S ALL.

LOOKS LIKE SHE'S DUMPED YOU... HAVE A DRINK.

MERU...

?!!

OH, AND THEY TRIED TO SPY ON YOU WHEN YOU WERE TAKING A BATH THAT TIME.

AND I BATHE THEM TOO.

YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT... THEY SNEAK INTO YOUR BED.

I STILL SLEEP WITH THEM.

?!

BIP

THAT'S A RELIEF.

SEND

AND HOW ARE YOU GOING TO DO THAT?

Oh?

TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP

...

BIP

HEY, THAT DOESN'T SOUND RIGHT...

?

DON'T WORRY, I WON'T FORCE MYSELF UPON HER.

NO TRESPASSING
DANGER!

I'M SO JEALOUS OF YOUR ABILITY, WHITE. I WISH MY TWO JIU JIU HAD IT.

It's so bright!

FOX FIRE

DON'T SNOW AND NIGHT HAVE ANY SPECIAL ABILITIES OR WEAPONS?

They can shake hands too!

THEY HAVE GOOD NOSES!

THEIR NOSES, I GUESS ...

Uh-huh.

THEY'RE... DOGS.

Handshakes, eh?

SLASH

MISTRESS TAKAMICHI !!

RSTI

SPUNKIES ARE A TYPE OF IGNIS FATUUS, OR FAIRY FIRE, SO...
...SHOULDN'T THEY GLOW OR SPARKLE OR SOMETHING SO THEY'RE EASIER TO FIND?
FAIRY FIRE?
My hat.
Are you even listening to me?!
LOVE, SHMUV...
COULD YOU PLEASE PAY ATTEN-TION!!
THIS IS A SPUNKIE- BUT THEY HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH FAIRY FIRE.
WHAT?
Really?
WHAT ...?
HA HA! YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT?
LOOK!
A SPUNKIE IS A TYPE OF GOBLIN, AN AGENT OF EVIL THAT LIVES IN BODIES OF WATER LIKE MARSHES AND DROWNS PEOPLE.
AND FAIRY FIRE IS A LIGHT THROWN BY A FAIRY TO LURE PEOPLE OVER THE EDGES OF CLIFFS TO FALL TO THEIR DOOM!
YOU NEED TO STUDY MORE!!
HOW IS THAT A GOBLIN? IT'S WAY TOO BIG!
That's just because the manga artist can't draw it well!

IF OUR INTELLIGENCE TEAM IS MISTAKEN, WE'D BETTER ENLIGHTEN THEM.

GRAB !

KLK KLK KLK KLK KLK

THAT'S TRUE.

BUT IT SAYS "FAIRY FIRE" IN MY TEXT!!

OH.

U call that fairy fire, u dope? Y don't u come down here and take a good look with yr own eyes! Sheesh! -!!

...

HERE.

!!

CCCRK CCCRK

HERE YOU GO. ♡

...

THAT'S OKAY. I'LL SEND *THIS*.

YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME... THIS CELL PHONE DOESN'T HAVE A CAMERA?

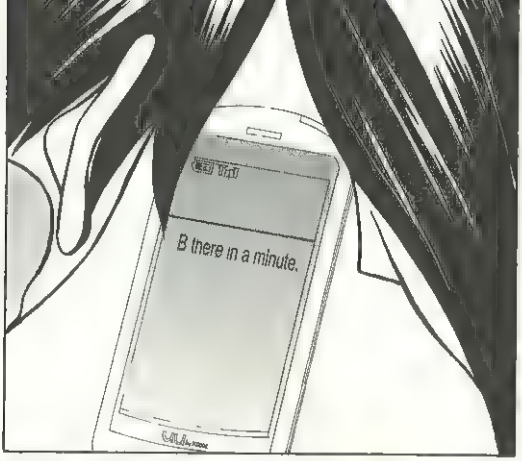
Exam results.

Is White a guy?
With the heart of a girl??
Is White a ♀ when in animal form?

Gifu Prefecture: Satomo

Yes, White is a boy I referred to the trio of Mistress Takamichi, Ripple, and White as the "Girl Team" because White's behavior with Master Mika is so girlish.

There's nothing wrong with falling in love.



WHITE HASN'T SAID A WORD SINCE HE FOUND OUT MIKA KISSED TAKAMICHI.
... WHITE?
DO YOU FEEL BETTER NOW...
...
TEARS..
BUT HE STILL FOLLOWS TAKAMICHI AROUND
No more silent treatment?
COME TO THINK OF IT...

WHAT ARE YOU THINKING ...?

THIS IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR ME TO WIN OVER MIKA'S HEART NOW THAT MISTRESS TAKAMICHI HAS DUMPED HIM AND BROKEN IT...

COME TO THINK OF IT...

Heh heh...

Mika is heartbroken? Over me?

... BROKEN IT?

THAT WOULD NEVER HAPPEN.

Ha...

MIKA STOPPED AT JUST A KISS? OUR MIKA?

? ? ?

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SAID I SHOULDN'T CONSIDER MYSELF SPECIAL BECAUSE OF A LITTLE KISS, WHITE!

? ? ?

SO MIKA MADE SOMEBODY ELSE'S FEELINGS A PRIORITY OVER HIS OWN GRATIFICATION ...?

IN OTHER WORDS ...

...HE DIDN'T WANT TO HURT YOUR FEELINGS, MISTRESS TAKAMICHI.

BUT HE PISSED ME OFF WITH THAT KISS!

HA.

I'VE NEVER SEEN ...
...THE REAL DEAL BEFORE.
I'm glad it's dark.
!!!
WAAA
GAH
MIKA
Poor Mika!!
DON'T WORRY. MASTER SEIJURO WILL TAKE FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR MAKING MISTRESS TAKAMICHI HAPPY.
THAT MEANS HE'S SERIOUSLY IN LOVE WITH HER!!
I don't get this at all...
PAT
WHOA!
SO THIS IS IT!
?!
RSTL
ISN'T THIS FAIRY FIRE?
THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT, ANYWAY.
...OUR CLASS-MATE, WASHI!
HEY! YOU'RE ...
No outsiders allowed!!

THIS IS A SPUNKIE. THEY'RE A TYPE OF GOBLIN AND AN AGENT OF EVIL! REMEMBER THAT!

WHAT IS IT THEN?

I don't study, so I don't know much. :;

Ah!! WASHI AS IN... *MASTER WASHI-TAKE?!*

DOES THIS MEAN... *WASHI* IS A MEMBER OF THE INTELLI-GENCE TEAM?!

HEY...

HOLD ON A SECOND...

BECAUSE THE MANGA ARTIST IS STUPID!

HUH? HOW CAN THIS BE A GOBLIN? IT'S HUGE.

WHA ...?!

?!

THIS MEANS MASTER WASHITAKE IS ON THE ANTI-JIU JIU TEAM, YOU KNOW!

Nah. That would be my grandpa.

AH HA HA

BWA HA HA

I JUST FOUND OUT MYSELF.

THAT IS SO MESSED UP.!

DID YOU KNOW ABOUT THIS, MISTRESS TAKAMICHI?!

SHOOT. NOW YOU KNOW I'VE ALLOWED A VAMPIRE TO ROAM FREE TOO!!
!!
So he knows w-we're permitting a vampire to roam free...?!
Gramps will kill me!!
EEK
EEK
Don't worry. Meru is you-know-what...
SO LET'S BOTH KEEP THIS OUR LITTLE SECRET!
WHAT ?
But... THINGS ARE STARTING TO GET A BIT MURKY.
THAT'S ... ...WHAT I'D LIKE TO THINK.
?
...TO CLARIFY SOMETHING WITH HACHIOJI.
I CAME HERE...
ARE YOU REALLY IN LOVE... ...WITH SNOW AND NIGHT?
I'M IN LOVE!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "REALLY"?

Scanner: Silver Ame

LOVE HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH WHETHER YOU'RE HUMAN OR NOT.

THAT'S RIGHT, MISTRESS TAKAMICHI!!

EVEN THOUGH THEY'RE NOT HUMAN?

HACHIOJI, DO YOU...

...PERMIT ME TO REPHRASE THE QUESTION.

HMM. THEN...

We love you, Mistress Takamichi!

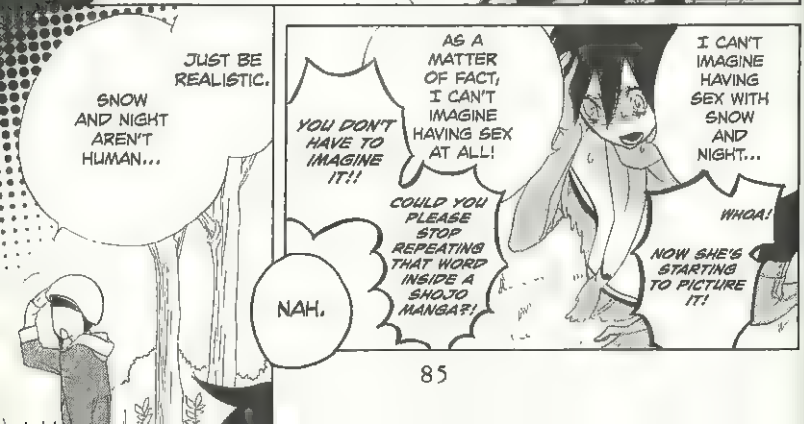
DO YOU WANT TO DIE?!

...WANT TO MAKE LOVE...

...WITH SNOW AND NIGHT?

...WANT TO HAVE SEX WITH...
...SNOW AND NIGHT?
DO YOU MEAN DO I...
Mistress Takamichi!! Please calm down!!
You mustn't commit murder!!

WHY DID SHE PUT IT THAT WAY?! EVEN MORE BLUNTLY!!
Oh my. Am I hearing things?
I was trying to embarrass her...
She's the heroine, isn't she?


JUST BE REALISTIC.
SNOW AND NIGHT AREN'T HUMAN...
NAH.
AS A MATTER OF FACT, I CAN'T IMAGINE HAVING SEX AT ALL!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO IMAGINE IT!!
COULD YOU PLEASE STOP REPEATING THAT WORD INSIDE A SHOJO MANGA?!
I CAN'T IMAGINE HAVING SEX WITH SNOW AND NIGHT...
WHOA!
NOW SHE'S STARTING TO PICTURE IT!

YOU'RE NO ORDINARY HIGH SCHOOL GIRL EITHER, HACHIOJI...

THINK IT THROUGH. VERY CAREFULLY.

SO WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO WITH SNOW AND NIGHT FROM NOW ON?

MASTER MIKA!

PLEASE STOP TRAINING SO RIGOROUSLY!

HIS WOUND KEEPS REOPENING!

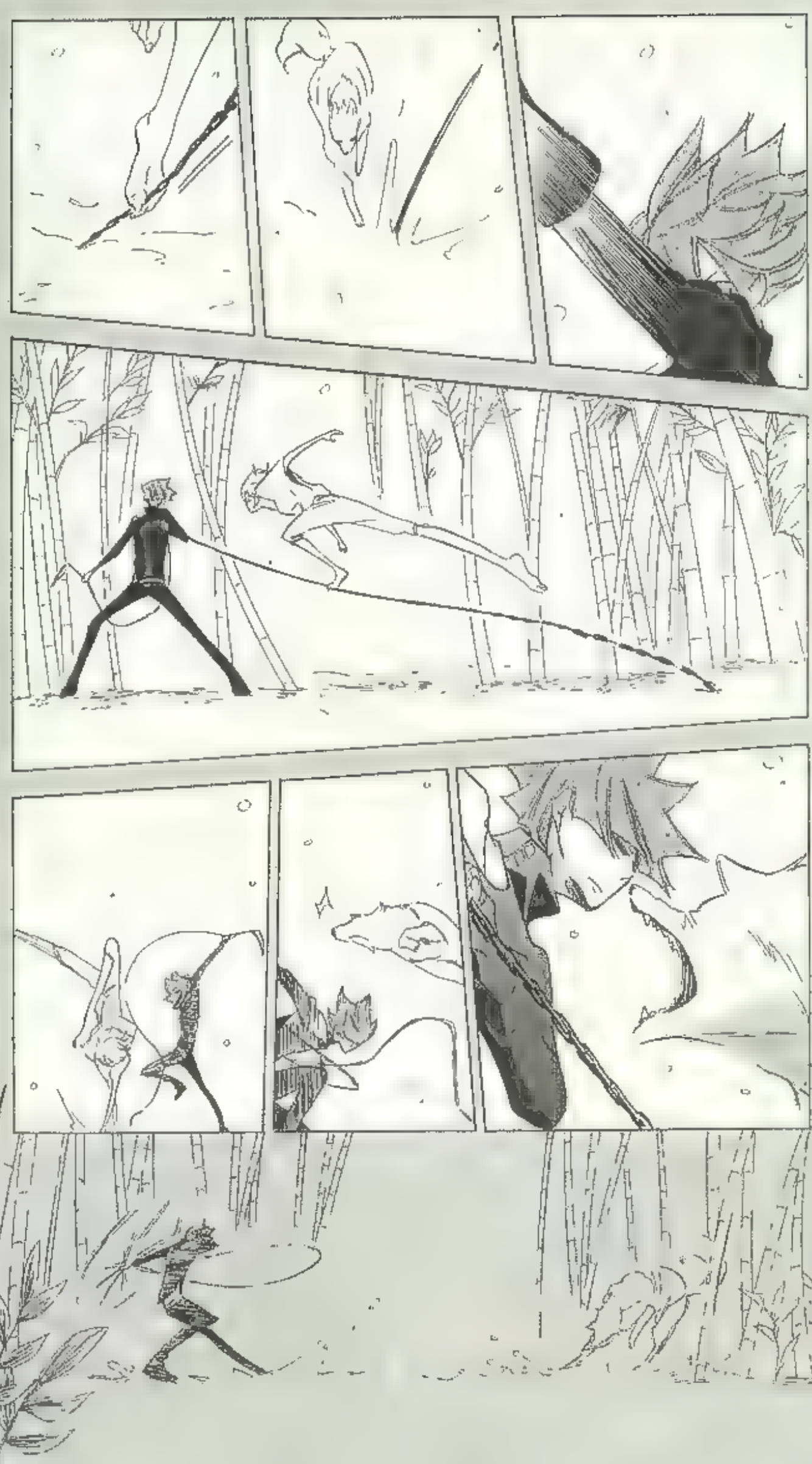
...
JUST DO YOUR JOB.
BRR...
...
FINE. THEN HOW ABOUT...
...YOU JUST DIE?
!...
WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT?

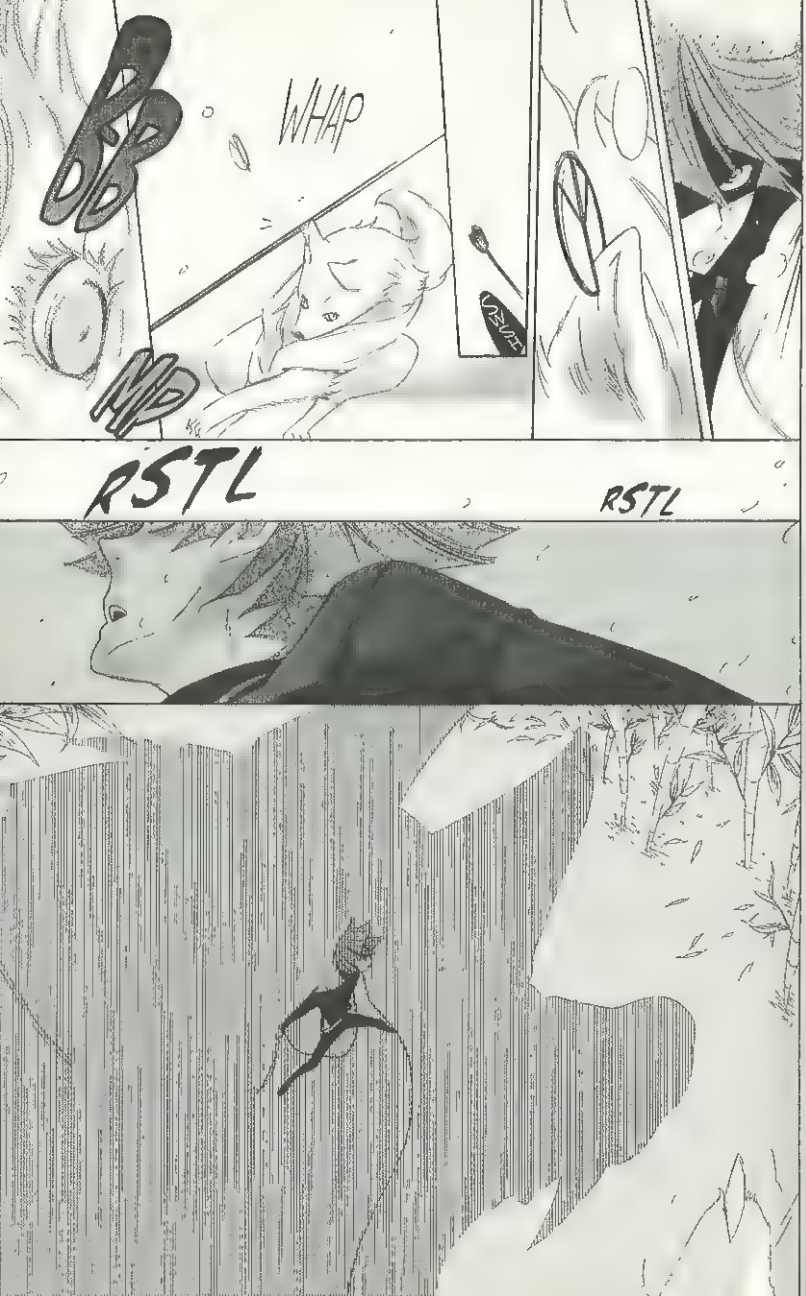
BUT...

...IF YOU'RE GOING TO DIE...

...WAIT UNTIL AFTER I BEAT YOU.

JUST A LITTLE MORE...
...AND I HAVE A FEELING... I'LL CATCH SOMETHING ...
A MAGIC SEAL?
SKRRF
...
...
YOU'RE ABOUT TO COLLAPSE AGAIN.
JUST ...
...A LITTLE MORE...




WHAP
THUNK
RSTL
RSTL

HUF
HAAA
WHAT...
...WAS THAT?

...
TAKA-MICHI.
TAKA-MICH.
I'M ...
... FINALLY ...
UNH...
AGH!
Stop...

...

UNH
...

I'M SORRY.
I'M SORRY ...
... WHITE.

HA HA ...

THAT TICKLES.

...TO GET RID OF ALL THE JIU JIU?

YOU WANT A DEFINITIVE REASON...

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SAID THERE WAS NO HURRY...
...BECAUSE HACHIOJI WILL BECOME YOURS SOONER OR LATER...
...
KANKURO.
THEY PROBABLY FOUND OUT...
...THAT I WAS ANTI-JIU JIU TOO.
I'VE GOT A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS.
THE NEXT FAMILY HEAD MEETING HAS BEEN SCHEDULED- FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER TWENTY-FIFTH.
ALL RIGHT. THANK YOU.
MASTER KANKURO?
TSUNAMI ...
FWAP

HA HA HA HA HA HA

I'VE NEVER HEARD OF THAT BEFORE!

ALSO... THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE I'VE NOTICED FROM ALL MY SPYING...

GO AND GET SEI.

MONSTERS YEARN FOR HUMANS AS WELL!

...WANT TO HAVE ...

DO I ...

WHAT'S MORE IMPORTANT IS WHAT MASTER WASHITAKE ASKED YOU JUST NOW.
THAT'S SOMETHING FOR YOU TO THINK ABOUT LATER.
WASHITAKE'S GRANDSON
Yep.
I've always been here.
White! You're here!

This is kind of out of the blue, but I wish they had more TV shows about ghosts. I love ghost stories! I haven't had much experience with the supernatural myself and I'm a scaredy cat, but I still love a good ghost story!

One of my assistants, Kikutsu, has suddenly developed the ability to sense ghostly presences

Another day, I told Nana about it

Don't! Don't say that!!
If there really were such a thing as ghosts, wouldn't the atmosphere be swarming with them?!
Hey!
Apparently they're right there.
Here, Nana!

Ghosts flying off into outer space

UH...

THAT'S ...

WOW ...

YOUR SEWING SKILLS KEEP IMPROVING ...

...

TMP

TMP

Mistress Takamichi...

OH...

WE'LL WAKE UP TOGETHER IN THE MORNING.

WE'LL GO FOR A WALK AND PLAY FRISBEE ON SUNNY DAYS.

WE'LL LAZE AROUND THE HOUSE WHEN IT'S RAINING.

ROLL ROLL ROLL

AND WE'LL SLEEP TOGETHER AT NIGHT!

Oh, White! You're here too?
MISTRESS TAKAMICHI!
KLUTZ
WHA
AP
THE DATE OF THE NEXT FAMILY HEAD MEETING HAS BEEN SET!
SO YOU DON'T NEED THESE STUFFED ANIMALS ANYMORE!

HUHUHU...

HURRAY!

HURRAY!

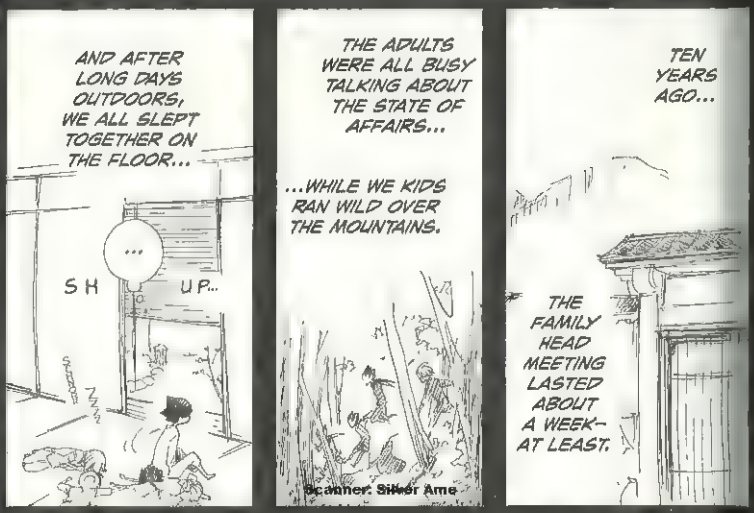
THAT'S RIGHT, MISTRESS TAKAMICHI!

TEE HEE

AREN'T YOU GLAD?!

YES, WHITE!! AND I'LL GET TO SEE SNOW AND NIGHT!!

DOES THAT MEAN I GET TO SEE MIKA?!


AND AFTER LONG DAYS OUTDOORS, WE ALL SLEPT TOGETHER ON THE FLOOR...
...
SH
UP...
THE ADULTS WERE ALL BUSY TALKING ABOUT THE STATE OF AFFAIRS...
...WHILE WE KIDS RAN WILD OVER THE MOUNTAINS.
TEN YEARS AGO...
THE FAMILY HEAD MEETING LASTED ABOUT A WEEK- AT LEAST.
Scanner: Silver Ame

Fan Service Scene I

THE BLACK CAT AND INSOMNIA

MY WIFE.

MY...

WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?

HUH?

SURPRISINGLY, I SLEPT VERY WELL THAT NIGHT.

THAT'S RIGHT.

AFTER THAT, I REALIZED I SLEEP BETTER BESIDE ANIMALS.

...

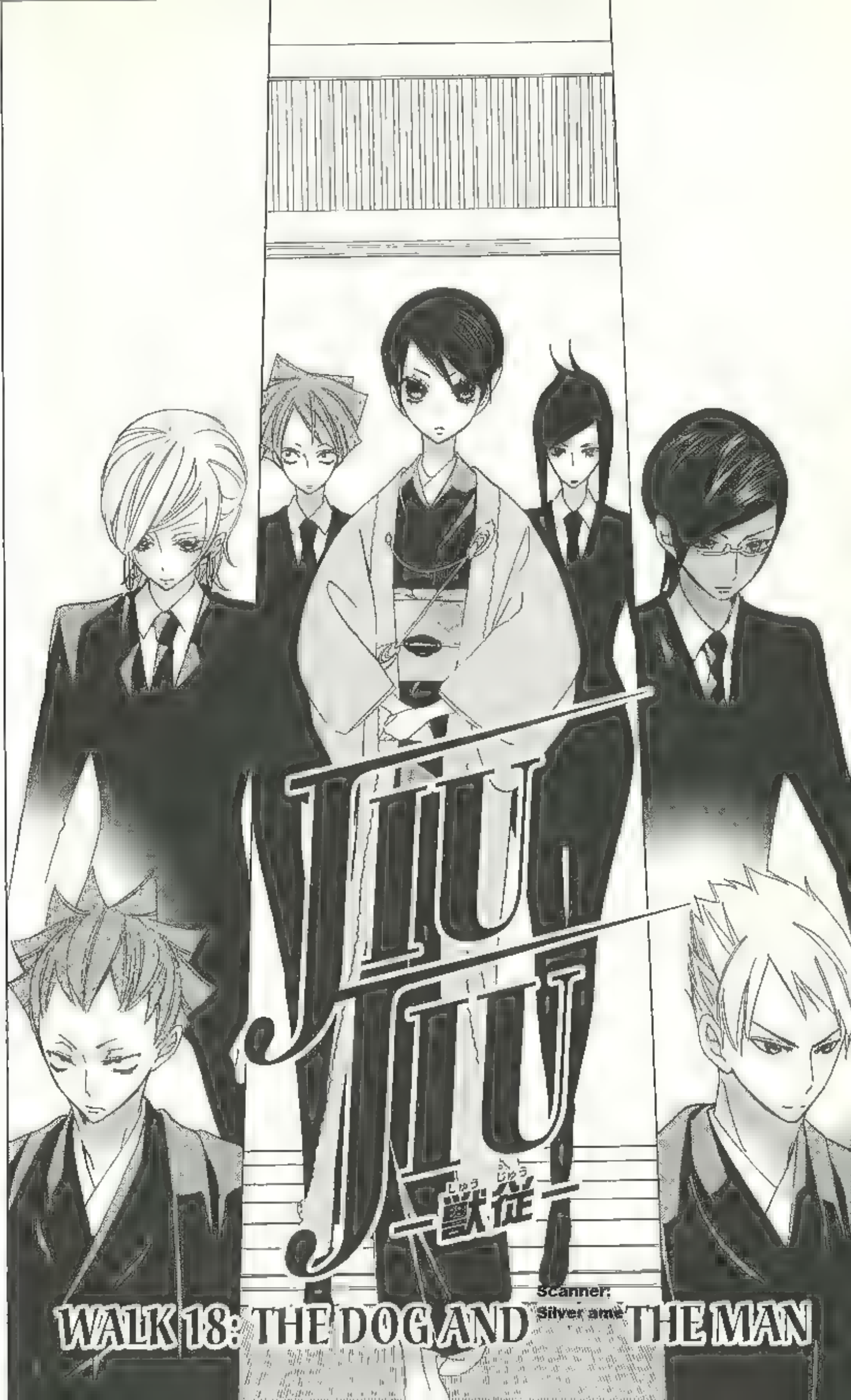
PUNCH

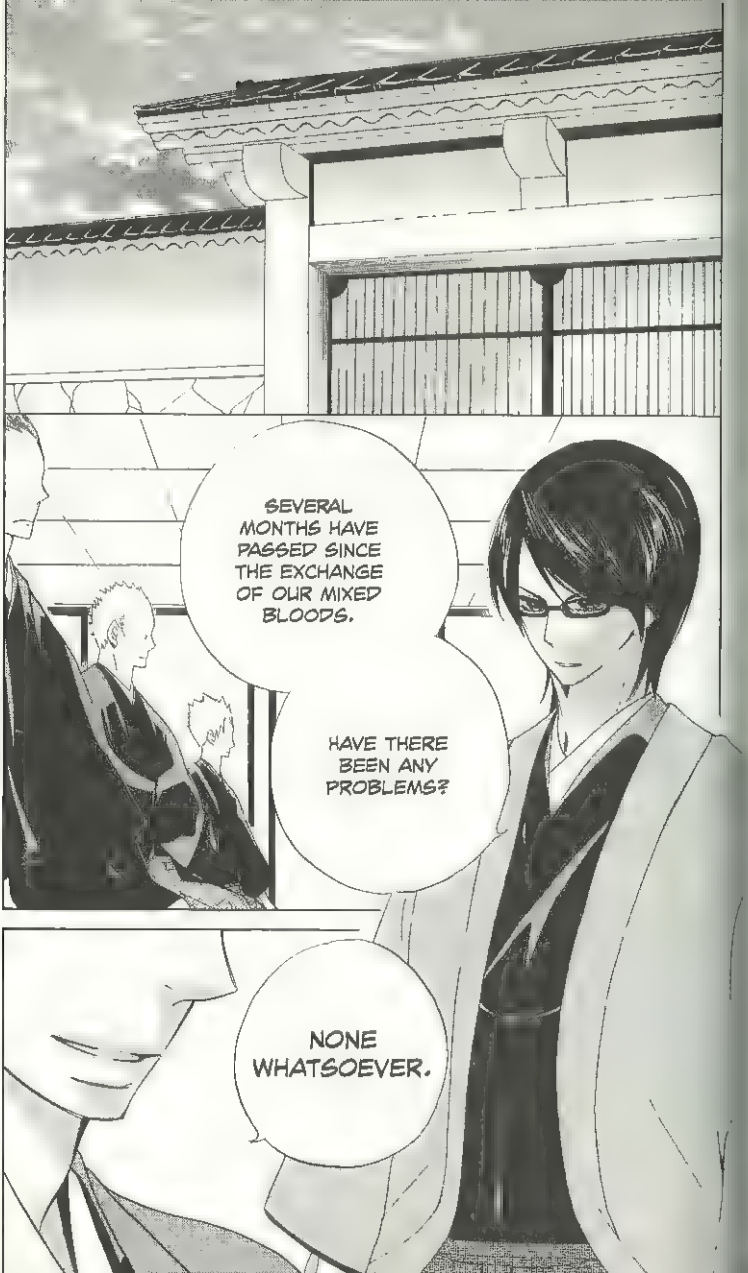
KIOW

...

JUST LIKE TODAY ...

WALK 18: THE DOG AND THE MAN


JUU
獣従
WALK 18: THE DOG AND THE MAN
Scanner:
Silver ame


SEVERAL MONTHS HAVE PASSED SINCE THE EXCHANGE OF OUR MIXED BLOODS.
HAVE THERE BEEN ANY PROBLEMS?
NONE WHATSOEVER.

YOU'VE TRAINED HIM WELL, SHUREN.

THANK YOU.

MOON IS A VERY CAPABLE JIU JIU.

TAKAMICHI ...

RIPPLE ...

...AND WHITE...

...DIDN'T HAVE ANY TROUBLE WITH THEM.

...

THAT ...

... HURT !!

WHAT DO YOU EXPECT WHEN I FIND YOU SLEEPING NEXT TO ME STARK NAKED?!
What a way to wake up!!
IT'S A HABIT. WHAT CAN I DO?
SHUT UP, IDIOT !!
WHY'RE YOU PUNCHING ME?!
I WAS GOING TO DRAW OUT YOUR SPECIAL ABILITIES...
TCH!
...SO I COULD IMPRESS THAT STUPID GIRL. WHAT A MISTAKE THAT TURNED OUT TO BE!
...
DON'T TAKE THOSE OFF.
OH!
MY EARRINGS ...
A... habit?
HEY ...
THEY FEEL DIFFER-ENT...
THESE EAR RINGS AREN'T
I GAVE YOU COOLER ONES.
...
YOU'RE ONE HELL OF A MONSTER!

NAH, I DIDN'T HAVE ANY PROBLEMS WITH HIM.

B-BUT...

OH ...?

NIGHT ...

SNOW ...

That's right!
NIGHT. NIGHT...
Oh...
DIDN'T HAVE ANY PROBLEMS WITH HIM EITHER.
HE'S... STARING AT ME!
INTENSE
INTENSE...
...DAMN IT.
INTENSE
I WON'T LOSE!
STARING MATCH

NOW THEN...

...WE'LL LEAVE THE MASTER-SERVANT RELATIONSHIP AS IT STANDS, AT LEAST UNTIL THE END OF THIS FAMILY HEAD MEETING, ALL RIGHT?

YES. I DON'T MIND.

What are you doing...?

LET'S ADJOURN TO PREPARE FOR THE MEAL.

BLAH BLAH

BY THE WAY...

...

IF WE'RE KEEPING OUR CURRENT MASTER-SERVANT RELATIONSHIP UNTIL THE END OF THE MEETING...

THERE'S SOMETHING DIFFERENT ABOUT SNOW AND NIGHT!

THEY'VE CHANGED!! COMPLETELY!

WHO... ARE THEY NOW?!

MISTRESS TAKAMICHI ...

NO.

NO!!

NIGHT... IS IT YOUR BIRTHDAY TOMORROW?

YES, IT IS.

...

Huh? Mistress Takamichi?

...YOU MIGHT NOT GET A CHANCE TO GIVE SNOW AND NIGHT THEIR BIRTHDAY PRESENTS TOMORROW.

Should I go after her?

She just ran off...

March 11, 2011

The Great East Japan Earthquake occurred as I was working on Chapter 18.

The house and my hand kept shaking. I forced myself to complete the chapter, despite the circumstances But for a while I couldn't even draw scribbles.

Because it was dark!

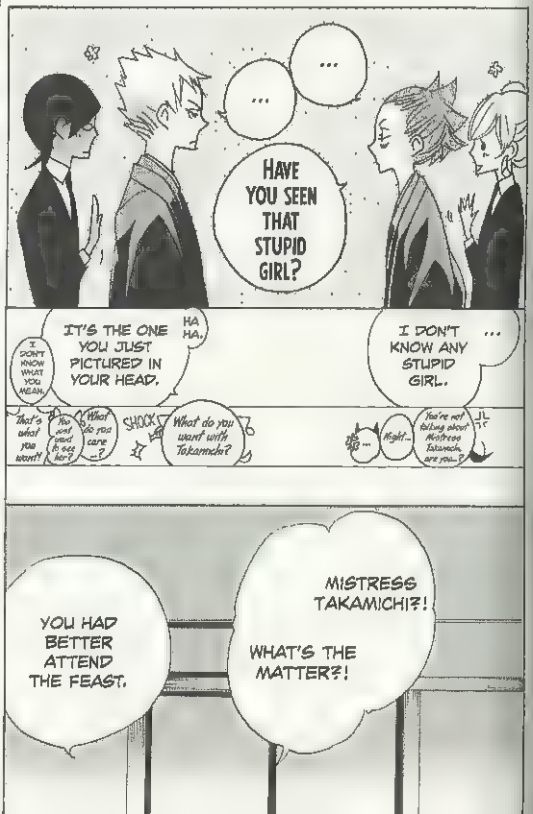
We weren't in a scheduled blackout area, but I felt bad about turning the lights on.

Actually, I really couldn't draw anything for about two months after that. The only thing I managed was a message of support and rough sketches of the characters for a joint piece I was working on.

I'd calmed down a lot by the time I worked on this

I just hope someday people will be able to talk about it calmly... someday .

My dog. ← Summer version


...
...
HAVE YOU SEEN THAT STUPID GIRL?
I DON'T KNOW ANY STUPID GIRL.
...
IT'S THE ONE YOU JUST PICTURED IN YOUR HEAD.
HA HA.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN.
That's what you want?
You just want to see her!
What do you care ~?
SHOCK
What do you want with Takamichi?
Right...
You're not lying about Mistress Takamichi, are you...
YOU HAD BETTER ATTEND THE FEAST.
MISTRESS TAKAMICHI?!
WHAT'S THE MATTER?!

...SNOW AND NIGHT?

DON'T YOU WANT TO SEE...

!

MISTRESS TAKAMICHI...

THOSE TWO ARE FAKES!

OR ELSE I'M DREAMING... OR SEEING THINGS!!

aao

AND NIGHT WOULD TURN HIS FACE AWAY!!

SNOW USED TO...

ZOOM

...WAG HIS TAIL AND JUMP UP ON ME THE MOMENT OUR EYES MET.

VIP

NO!

NO!

THEY AREN'T THEM!

I'LL KNOW FOR SURE WHEN I SEE THEM AGAIN TOMORROW...

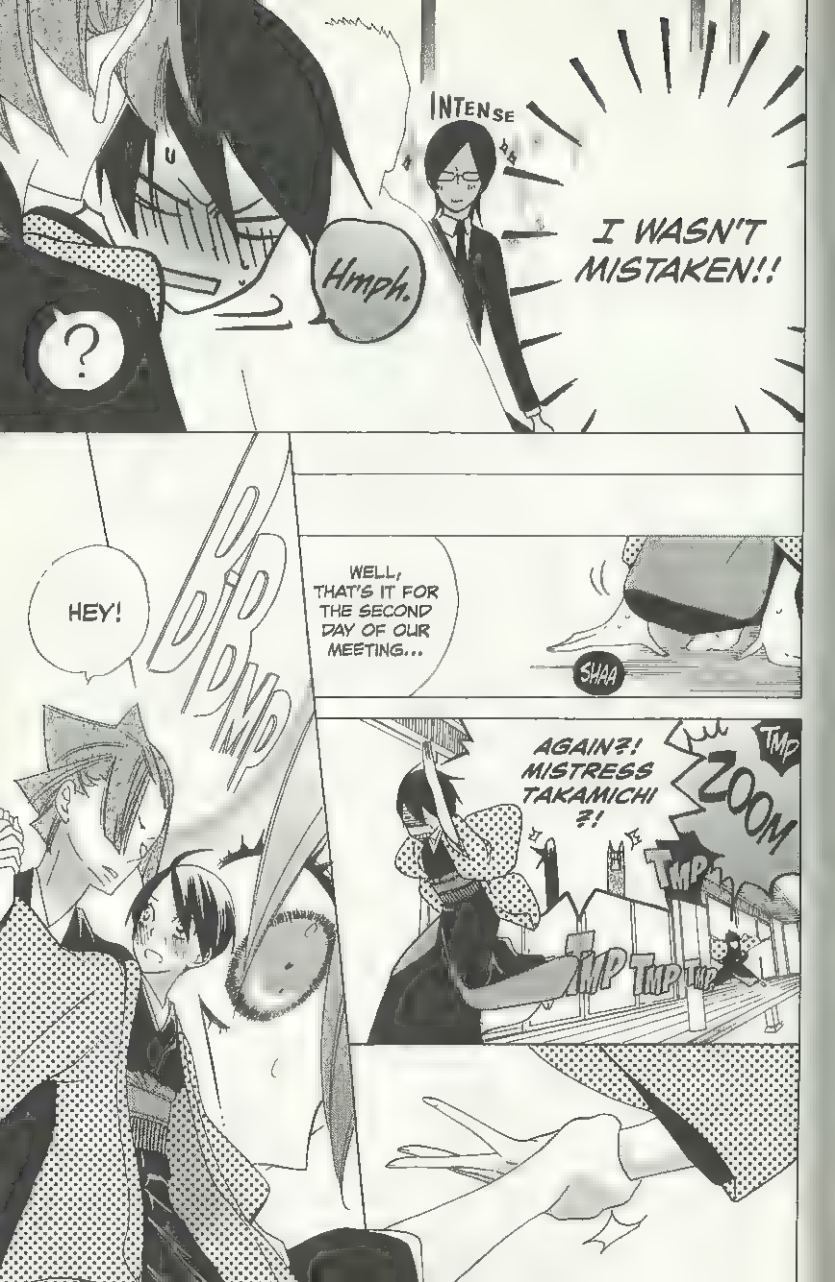
I MUST HAVE MADE A MISTAKE.

THAT'S IT...

...

...

WHEN I SEE THEM... AGAIN...


INTENSE
I WASN'T MISTAKEN!!
Hmph.
?
WELL, THAT'S IT FOR THE SECOND DAY OF OUR MEETING...
SHAA
AGAIN?! MISTRESS TAKAMICHI ?!
TMP
ZOOM
TMP
TMP TMP TMP
HEY!
BIBIMP

HEH.

WHAT?

SEI... ER, *MASTER* SEIJURO...

WHITE!

OH.

WERE YOU LOOKING FOR MISTRESS TAKAMICHI AS WELL?

BUMP

I WONDERED WHY YOU WERE WANDERING AROUND YESTERDAY.

YES ...

THEY'RE... GONE.

...

THIS WAY, PLEASE, SEI— MASTER SEIJURO. DON'T GET LOST.

IF YOU'D TOLD ME, I WOULD HAVE LED YOU TO HER ROOM.

...

...THE SNOW AND NIGHT I KNOW!
HOW CAN I FACE THEM?!
THESE AREN'T...
... I ought to beat the crap out of you.
HUH?
YEAH, I'VE SEEN THEM ...
...WITH GROWN-UP EXPRESSIONS ON THEIR FACES BEFORE!
BUT THIS IS DIFFERENT!
ROUND AND FLUFFY ...?
THE SNOW AND NIGHT I KNOW ARE...
... PUPPIES ...
THEY'RE ROUND...
...AND FLUFFY...
...

IT'S TRUE ...

HEY, STUPID.

WHAT THE HELL IS IT ABOUT THOSE TWO...

...THAT WOULD MAKE YOU SAY SOMETHING SO RIDICULOUS?

SNOW
...
...
AND
NIGHT
...
...
THAT SLAP ON THE FACE BACK THEN...
...HAVE ALWAYS BEEN LIKE THAT.

THEY'VE NEVER BEEN ORDINARY DOGS!!

IT'S TIME...

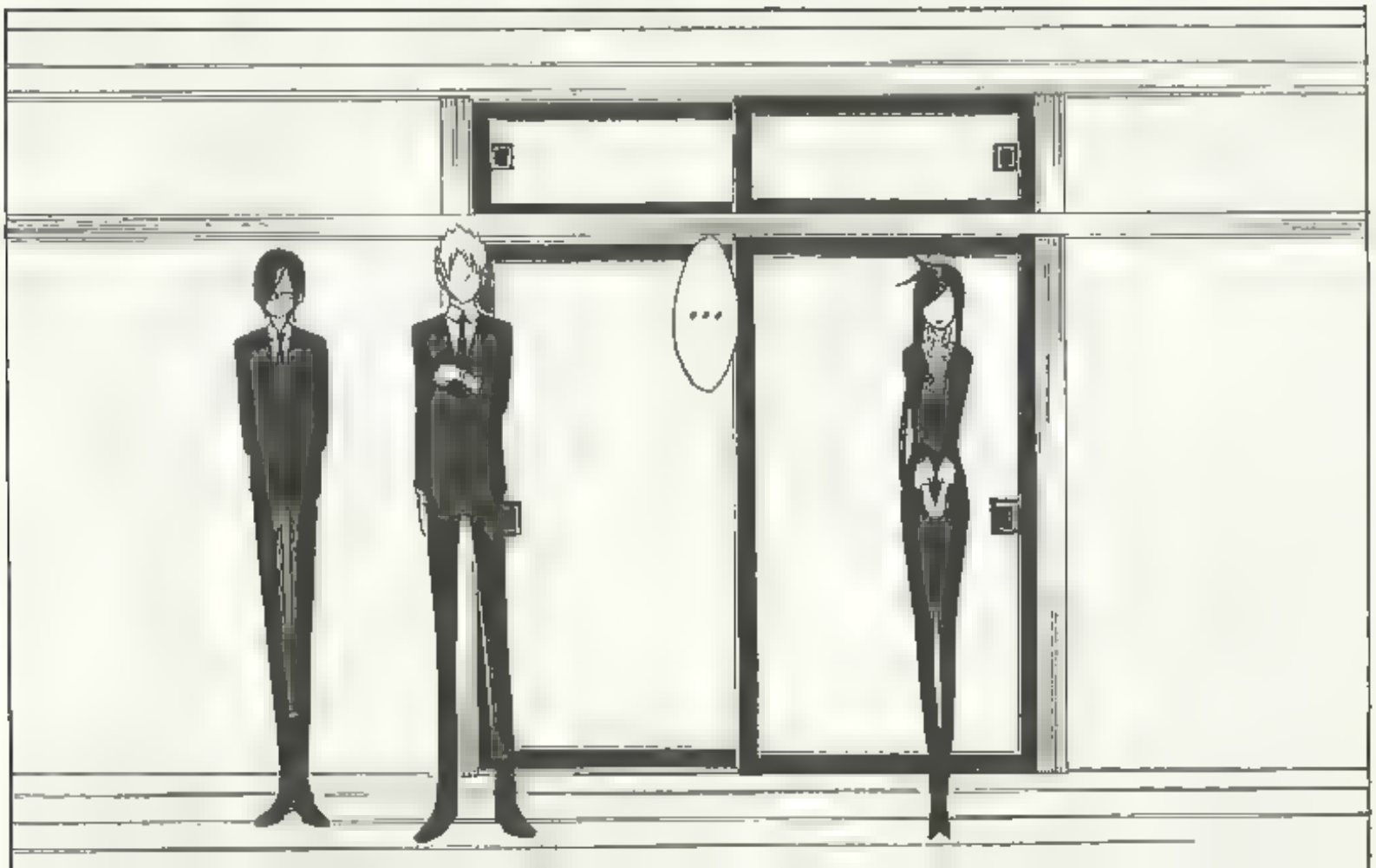
...YOU WERE TREATED LIKE...

THAT'S RIGHT!!

...A REAL WOMAN.

KL T ! TA
...
SNOW
...
...
!!
OOH, THAT WAS CLOSE!
HE WAS ABOUT TO RUIN MISTRESS TAKAMICHI!
...
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING...
... MASTER MIKA?
...
You...

...
SNOW, COULD YOU REMOVE THAT DANGEROUS MAN FROM OUR PRESENCE, PLEASE?


...

I WONDER IF THEY'VE FOUND MISTRESS TAKAMICHI YET...
SHOULD I LOOK FOR THEM?
NO... I'LL GO.
I don't want her to come back when you're not around.
??
What does he mean by that...?
?
...
...BE ABLE TO HAVE A CONVERSATION WITH MISTRESS TAKAMICHI? HE'S KIND OF STRANGE. I DON'T THINK HE CAN HANDLE IT.
ANY-WAY... IS SEIJURO GOING TO...
Hmph.
Definitely impossible.
Impossible.
HOW DARE YOU! YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT SNOW!
YES. IT WAS SNOW'S FAULT.
MEH
UM... I'M REALLY SORRY ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED AT THE LAST FAMILY HEAD MEETING...
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
IT WAS PARTLY SNOW'S FAULT ANYWAY.
TSK!
DON'T PRETEND TO KNOW MASTER SEIJURO AFTER JUST TWO MONTHS!!
AND I DON'T FIND IT APPROPRIATE FOR A SERVANT TO CALL HIS MASTER BY HIS GIVEN NAME!!
Ha!
HMPH
TIME IS IRRELEVANT WHEN IT COMES TO THESE MATTERS, RIPPLE.
Who do you think you are?! Hmph.
... MISTRESS TAKAMICHI. It's dangerous.
PLEASE DON'T TURN AROUND...

THEN ...

... PUT ME DOWN !!

You'll run away if I put you down.

What are you jealous of, anyway?!

...HOLD ONTO ME LIKE THAT. I MEAN ONTO THIS BODY...

PLEASE DON'T...

MISTRESS TAKAMI...

...CHI.

MISTRESS TAKAMICHI... COULD YOU... STOP?

UH...

UM...

WELL ...

INTENSE...

YAY

WHEE

Why do you want to see me?!

UH...

OH, MISTRESS TAKAMICHI! DON'T YOU WANT TO SEE NIGHT?

?!

I DON'T WANT HIM TO HAVE HIGH EXPECTATIONS ...

A BIRTHDAY PRESENT. FOR YOU.
SNOW AND NIGHT...
...AREN'T ORDINARY DOGS.
HERE.
!
MAY I OPEN IT NOW?!
THEY'RE GROWING UP... AS PEOPLE.
BUT...
GO AHEAD.
THIS PRESENT IS...
RSTL
RSTL
RIPPLE...
...
RSTL
OH, ISN'T THAT NATURAL?
YOU'RE AWFULLY COOPERATIVE... HELPING HER GIVE THEM THEIR BIRTHDAY PRESENTS.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH...

...MISTRESS TAKAMICHI!

...NIGHT!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY...

I HAVE TO GIVE SNOW HIS PRESENT BEFORE THE END OF TODAY TOO!
...
OH...
...NO!
NIGHT WAS STILL NIGHT!
THEY WERE JUST A LITTLE NERVOUS BEFORE— BECAUSE WE HADN'T SEEN EACH OTHER FOR A WHILE, I GUESS!
WAIT HERE, OKAY ?!

HEY, THEY'RE ACTUALLY GETTING ALONG...
WE'LL BE TOGETHER ALL THE TIME FROM NOW ON ANYWAY.
YOU DON'T SOUND ALL THAT THRILLED ABOUT IT, THOUGH.
IT'S OKAY ...
...
SNOW!

ANYWAY... TAKAMICHI SEEMS TO...

...GET ALONG WELL WITH THE WEASEL AND THE CROW.

...

SIGH...

AND THEY'RE UP CLOSE TO EACH OTHER TOO...

IRK

Get away from him!!

IRK

I DON'T NEED YOU EITHER.

MAYBE... SHE DOESN'T NEED ME ANYMORE...

SNFFL

...A PILLOW?!

You're too heavy! That hurts! I don't want to do this!

OH, BUT...

I DON'T MIND USING YOU AS A PILLOW!

BUT THAT STUPID GIRL KEEPS AVOIDING YOU.

BBMD

TAKA-MICHI...

MIKAGE!

GLLLLOOP

YOU'RE INTO GUYS NOW TOO?!

SNOW IS MY BLANKET !!

BY THE WAY... WHITE IS MAKING A BIG MISTAKE.

Oh?

THERE YOU HAVE IT.

Happy now?

HEY!
DAMN... I RESPONDED TO HER LIKE I ALWAYS DO!!
I DON'T ...
WHITE! KEEP AN EYE ON HIM! HE'S DANGEROUS! THAT'S AN ORDER!
SHIN
ISH
GOTCHA!
I WAS ...
...GOING TO MAKE AMENDS... WITH HIS LIFE AND MINE...
...FOR YOU AND HAKU...
...KNOW ANYMORE ...
BUT ...
...I JUST DON'T KNOW ANYMORE...

I ONLY WANT TO BE WITH...

...YOU...

...MIKA.

IF LIFE IS A LIVING HELL FOR YOU...

I WANT YOU TO CHOOSE HELL...

I'LL SAY IT OVER AND OVER...

I WANT TO SPEND MY LIFE WITH YOU.

I WANT YOU TO LIVE.

LET'S END THIS...

...WHITE.

YES.

OH.

THERE'S ...

...SOMETHING I'VE NOTICED...

HEY! SNOW ...

HOORAY! THANKS!
RIP
TEAR
A BIRTHDAY PRESENT ?!
GRAB
HERE.
!
PHOOP
Scanner: Silver Ame
HAPPY BIRTHDAY ...
... SNOW.
WE CAN GO OUT FOR A WALK EVERY DAY OVER WINTER BREAK, OKAY?

...

Snow
--

...

WOOF

SO MUCH FUN!

GO FOR A WALK! A WALK!!

WALK, WALK!
SO MUCH FUN.
SHUT UP!
HUGG
...
I'M SO HAPPY.
FWUMP
YEAH, HE LIKED IT TOO!
OH, I'M SO GLAD!
?
YEAH.
DID YOU ...GIVE ONE TO NIGHT?
BUT THEY'RE STILL DOGS.
...HAVE GROWN UP AS PEOPLE...
SNOW AND NIGHT...
THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.

A LEASH... FOR TAKING YOU ON WALKS?

FROM TAKAMICHI.

A LEASH.

WE'LL ALWAYS BE TOGETHER.

IT'S MORE THAN HOPELESS.

IT'S MY PRESENT FOR MY FOURTH BIRTHDAY.

HA HA! IT'S HOPELESS!

WHAT'S ...

... THAT?

...ARE MONSTERS.

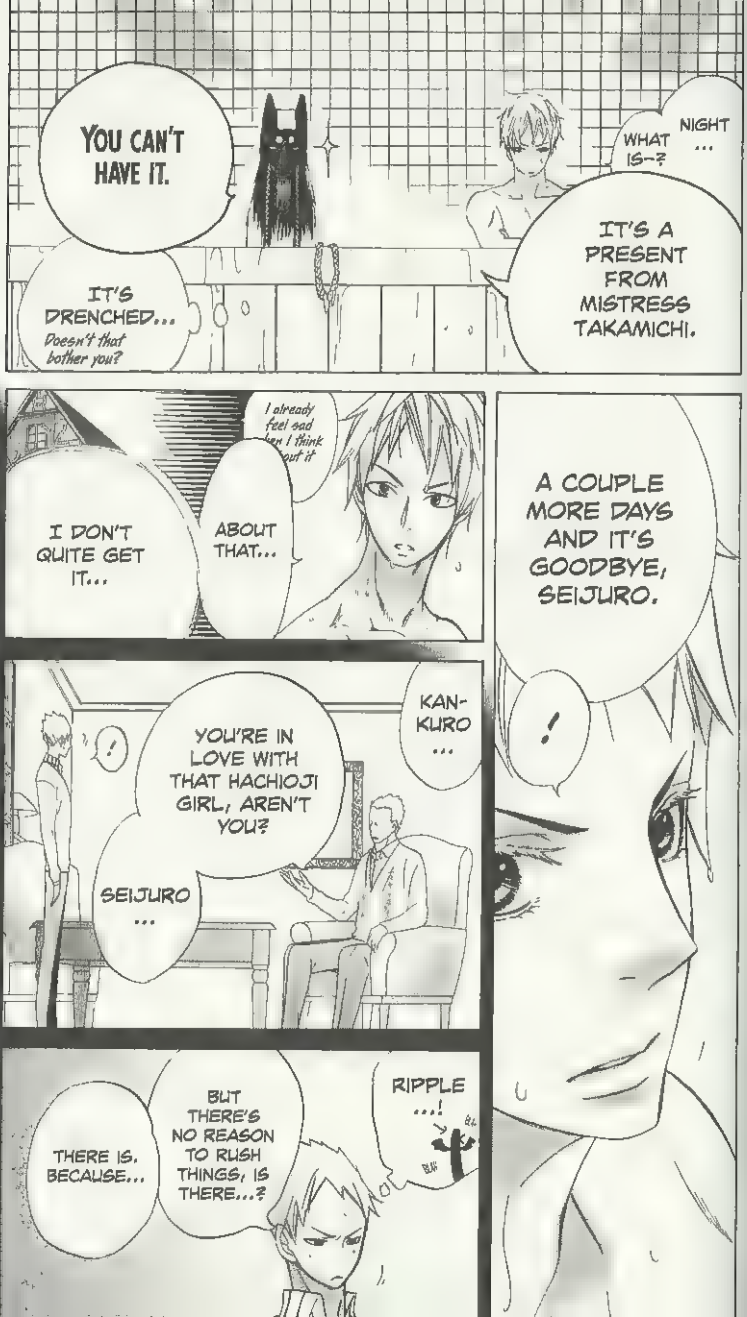
NIGHT AND I...

OOOOH! I FEEL ALIVE AGAIN!

OWW

SPL

ASH...


YOU CAN'T HAVE IT.
IT'S DRENCHED... Doesn't that bother you?
WHAT IS-?
NIGHT ...
IT'S A PRESENT FROM MISTRESS TAKAMICHI.
I already feel sad [illegible] I think about it
I DON'T QUITE GET IT...
ABOUT THAT...
A COUPLE MORE DAYS AND IT'S GOODBYE, SEIJURO.
!
KAN-KURO ...
YOU'RE IN LOVE WITH THAT HACHIOJI GIRL, AREN'T YOU?
!
SEIJURO ...
RIPPLE ...!
BUT THERE'S NO REASON TO RUSH THINGS, IS THERE...?
THERE IS, BECAUSE...

...THERE'S A POSSIBILITY... THAT TAKAYUKI HACHIOJI... IS ALIVE.

...WE OUGHT TO TELL MISTRESS TAKAMICHI RIGHT AWAY!

KLTR

I NEVER REALLY BELIEVED HE WAS DEAD, BUT...

TH-THEN ...

IF TAKAYUKI IS ALIVE ...

...THEN TAKAMICHI BELONGS TO NEKOZANE AGAIN.

SEIJURO!

YOU MUSTN'T RELINQUISH YOUR DESIRES SO EASILY!!

Which character do you enjoy drawing the most?

Nagasaki Prefecture: Rogetsu

Which character is the hardest to draw?

Kanagawa Prefecture: Yuki

Well, when I feel good, I enjoy drawing all the characters. But when I don't feel good, I have trouble drawing all the characters. Oh, but I think I have trouble drawing Seijuro and Night all the time. And the contours of Mistress Takamichi's body

What do you pay attention to when drawing?

Aomori Prefecture: Natsumi

There are so many things... I always remember something I've forgotten to do at the very end of working on my final draft. Argh! I'm sure I've forgotten to do something now as well. But the thing I focus on the most is to draw my manga with love.

Who is Fenrir?

Nagasaki Prefecture: Leona

Fenrir is a giant wolf who is probably the most famous monster in Norse mythology.

Moon, Snow and Night are distant descendants.

SEIJURO!
MY BIG BROTHER IS STILL...
BUT I...
SEI...
HMP'H. DON'T MAKE ME CALL YOU OVER AND OVER LIKE THAT AGAIN!
Oh.
?!
WERE YOU JUST ABOUT TO TELL ME SOMETHING...?
YOU'VE GOT WHAT IT TAKES. YOU CAN DO IT IF YOU TRY, SEIJURO!!
Okay?!
ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS APOLOGIZE. Under-stand?!
THAT'S RIGHT!
I, UM...
SORRY ...
JUST NO ENKA, PLEASE... IT'LL MAKE ME ALL MELISMATIC !!
SOUL?! OR JAZZ?!
OH...
LET'S SING! COME ON, SEIJURO!

...

...

...

NOTHING HAPPENED.

MIKA WAS VERY QUIET TOO.

COME ...

... NOW ...

CHAK

I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AGAIN!
THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR EVERY-THING...
...MISTRESS TAKAMICHI.
!!
I HOPE YOU GET ALONG WITH MIKA!
WE'RE ONLY JUST GETTING STARTED.
Oh my...!!
GET IT ON WITH MIKA ...?!
IS HE OKAY?
DON'T WORRY. HE'S JUST ILL.
?
That's indecent !!

SNOW ...

PHEW. IT'S OVER AT LAST ...

YES!

NIGHT ...

...SPEND TIME TOGETHER- JUST THE THREE OF US!

LET'S GO FOR A WALK!

FINALLY WE CAN...

SKREECH

GLARE
Is he mad..?
WHOA!
HE'S COMING THIS WAY...
CHAKK
M-Mika
Shut up!
?
...IS BECAUSE I HAVE MY PRIDE, YOU STUPID GIRL!!
THE REASON I KISSED YOU... AND ONLY KISSED YOU...
Hmm!

...THINK OF THOSE TWO AS ORDINARY DOGS.

LET GO OF ME, SNOW!!

They're not dogs. They're wolves.

PFU PFU

Don't...

I'd never fall in love with a brat like you!! So don't delude yourself!!

Drop dead!

White! You don't have to bow to her!

WHY DID THE NEKOZANE FAMILY HEAD BEHAVE SO RUDELY...?

HMPH ...

Then you shouldn't tear him to pieces.

WHY IS NIGHT SO MAD?

GRRR

I'LL NEVER FORGIVE HIM! EVEN AFTER I TEAR HIM TO PIECES!!

SEI-JURO !!
HOW COME YOUR FIANCÉ IS SO CALM ABOUT IT?!
So THAT'S WHY!!
I'M THE ONE MIKA KISSED, YOU KNOW.
HEY, NIGHT ...

I'M GOING TO BE STICKING AROUND FOR A WHILE.
WHAT ARE YOU STILL DOING HERE?
GO HOME.
GO HOME.
MASTER SEIJURO ...

WHAT A BRISK MORNING. HOW REFRESHING.

...

WHAT A NICE DAY FOR A WALK...

YES, IT CERTAINLY IS...

IT WOULD BE REFRESHING IF YOU WEREN'T HERE!!

IT'S COLD IN TOKYO TOO.

...

YEP, IT SURE IS.

Fan Service Scene 2

ETERNITY AND THE DUCKLING

...

SEE?

THEY KNOW INSTINCTIVELY...

Yuki just beat the crap out of you!

UH?!

I lost on purpose!!

Don't lie! Dumb Mika!!

...THAT SOCIAL STATUS IS MEANINGLESS.

KR

BOMB

STOP IT!

TCH...

I'LL FIGHT YOU NEXT...

...MIKA NEKOZANE!

HEH

FINE.

...JUST LIKE HIM.

I'M GONNA MAKE YOU CRY, SEIJURO!

I'M PROBABLY ...

HUH?!

...Night even knows what a kiss is.

Anyway, I'm surprised that...

He won't kiss her a second time.

Don't worry.

What are you talking about?!

OF COURSE NOT.

JIU JIU
-獣従-

WALK 19: AS YOU WISH...

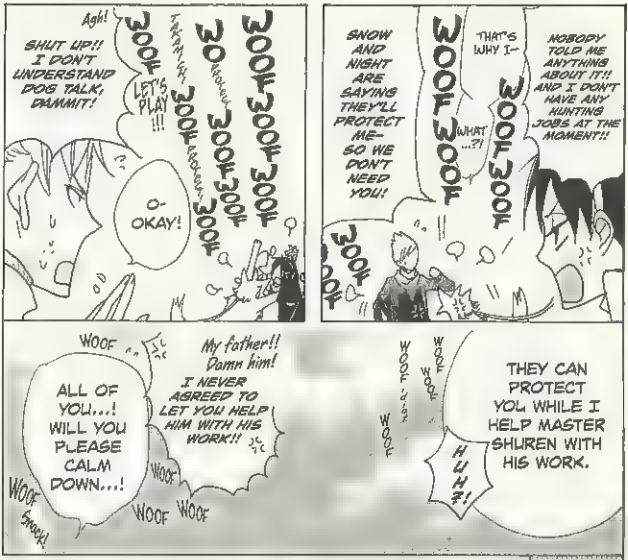
Winner: Silver Ame

IS THERE NO WOMAN IN THIS WORLD YOU LIKE, MASTER MIKA...?
...
WHAT THE HELL IS THIS...?
MISS HAMANASU, DAUGHTER OF THE SHIRATORI CLAN HEAD, IS HERE TO PAY YOU A VISIT...
...MASTER MIKA...
TURN HER AWAY.
I DON'T LIKE THAT GIRL.
...
Hmph...
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO HASN'T CHOSEN A BRIDE YET, MASTER MIKA.
...
WHAT ...?
EVEN THE FUTURE FAMILY HEAD OF THE HACHIOJI CLAN...
...HAS CHOSEN SOMEONE.

WALK.
WALK.
HEY! HEY! NIGHT!
WHY ARE YOU COMPETING WITH HIM, ANYWAY ...?
BUT I WON'T LOSE TO HIM!!
THAT WAS A PRETTY SLICK MOVE SEIJURO MADE...!
Walk... Walk...
...I WILL NOT LOSE.
SO...
MISTRESS TAKAMICHI...
I VOWED I WOULDN'T RUN AWAY ANYMORE!

YES.
UH-HUH.
RIGHT NOW, I THINK...
OKAY.
...
I MUST BE STUPID ...
...TO HAVE THOUGHT THIS WAS "LOVE"...
OUCH!
THAT'S NOT FAIR, NIGHT!!
I WANT TO DO IT TOO. I WANT TO DO IT TOO!!
I LOVE YOU TOO...
...TAKA-MICHI!
WHOA!
SHOW!!
QUIT HANGING AROUND STARK NAKED!
Oh! It's been so long!!
Shut up!!

HOW COME ...
AWWWW!
DO WE HAVE TO GO DOWN TO THE RIVER BANK AGAIN?
WHAT ARE YOU WHINING ABOUT NOW?
THERE'S SO MANY OTHER PEOPLE DOWN THERE!
Woof
...YOU KEEP FOLLOWING US ON OUR WALKS...
... SEIJURO ?!
!
WOOL
AND WHERE'S RIPPLE ?!
SHE SAID MY NAME...
A MONSTER HAS BEEN TARGETING HUNTERS AROUND HERE RECENTLY. IT'S DANGEROUS...
Ripple is out investigating the incidents...


Agh!
SHUT UP!! I DON'T UNDERSTAND DOG TALK, DAMMIT!
WOOF
LET'S PLAY!!!
WOOF WOOF WOOF WOOF WOOF WOOF WOOF WOOF WOOF
O-OKAY!
SNOW AND NIGHT ARE SAYING THEY'LL PROTECT ME- SO WE DON'T NEED YOU!
WOOF WOOF
WOOF WOOF
THAT'S WHY I--
WHAT...?!
WOOF WOOF
NOBODY TOLD ME ANYTHING ABOUT IT!! AND I DON'T HAVE ANY HUNTING JOBS AT THE MOMENT!!
THEY CAN PROTECT YOU WHILE I HELP MASTER SHUREN WITH HIS WORK.
WOOF WOOF WOOF WOOF WOOF
HUH?!
WOOF
My father!! Damn him! I NEVER AGREED TO LET YOU HELP HIM WITH HIS WORK!!
ALL OF YOU...! WILL YOU PLEASE CALM DOWN...!
WOOF WOOF WOOF WOOF WOOF
SORRY...
YOU GUYS ARE USELESS.
WE DON'T KNOW YET...
Ha.
...
WHAT TYPE OF MONSTER IS ATTACKING THE HUNTERS?
JERKY
WELL?
MNCH! MNCH!
MNCH!

Sickle-weasel/fox hybrid
Mixed Blood
YOU MEAN IT'S ONE OF WHITE'S RELATIVES? NEAR MIKA'S HOME?
...THE WOUNDS LOOK LIKE THEY'VE BEEN CREATED BY A WHIRLWIND...
...SO IT SEEMS LIKE THE WORK OF A SICKLE-WEASEL...
APPARENTLY ...
...
BUT NO SIGN OF SICKLE-WEASELS...
...HAS BEEN CONFIRMED SINCE MY BROTHER KANKURO ANNIHILATED THEM EIGHT YEARS AGO.
WHITE-A HYBRID-IS THE CLOSEST TH.NG THAT STILL EXISTS-AS FAR AS WE KNOW.
EIGHT YEARS AGO...
AND WHITE HAS A MOTIVE...
...
WHAT?
IT WAS THE NEKOZANE FAMILY HEAD-M.KA'S FATHER-THIS TIME?
When are you coming home?

GRIN
NOT...
WHAT?
!
BACK THEN, DID YUKI...
DAD COULD BE IN DANGER TOO, THE WAY THINGS ARE GOING.
Right?
YUKI ...?
ANOTHER FUNERAL?
Oh
D'you think a third Akiba will cry?
BUT ...
...THE ONE WHO DIED NEXT WAS...
THIS MUST BE A CURSE.
Hey, when are you coming home?
IT WAS YOU, WASN'T IT, KANKURO?
TAKAYUKI DIED IN A MONSTER HUNTING ACCIDENT.
YOU KILLED TAKAYUKI!
BRAIN SHORT-CIRCUITING
YOU, OF ALL PEOPLE, KNOW THAT BETTER THAN ANYONE.
...
I'M SORRY.
THAT'S AROUND THE TIME YOUNG MASTER TAKAYUKI DIED, ISN'T IT...?
...KNOW SOMETHING ...?

GAME!
Woo-
HUH ...?
HEY ...
WOOF
WOOF
WOOF
WOOF
?!
What is it?! What are you doing, Night??
!!
...

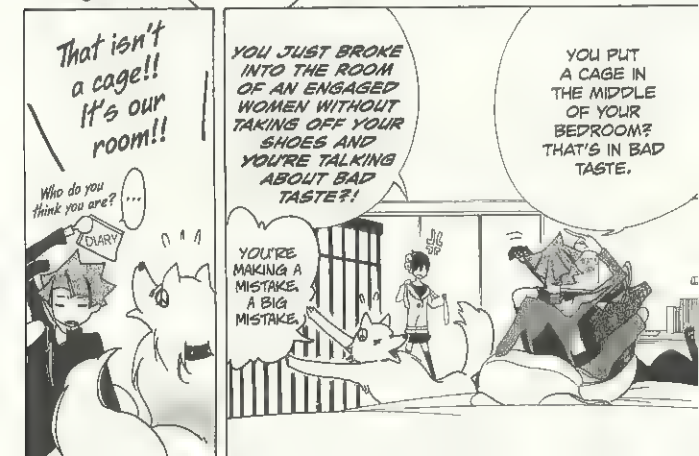
I DON'T WANT THEM TO GO ON ANY NONESSENTIAL EXPEDITIONS ANYMORE.
OH...
?!
WHEN DO YOU WANT TO GO?
...IS MY FUTURE WITH SNOW AND NIGHT.
WHAT I HAVE TO FOCUS ON NOW...
...
HMPH... I ALWAYS LOSE MY COOL WHEN IT COMES TO YUKI.
I WAS ABOUT TO LOSE MY HEAD AGAIN...
OH.
YOU'RE RIGHT...
SO I'M THE ONE WHO HAS TO GO TO YOUR HOME TO PRESENT THE BETROTHAL GIFTS!!
YOU'RE MARRYING *INTO* THE HACHIOJI FAMILY!
LOOK ...

THERE'S SOMETHING I NEED TO INVESTIGATE FIRST, SO... I'D PREFER THAT YOU WAIT JUST A LITTLE LONGER...
ABOUT THAT...
YOU CAN CHOOSE ANY DAY THAT WORKS FOR THE SHIRATORI FAMILY— JUST PICK A DATE ALREADY!
...
OF COURSE I DO!!
VERY MUCH!
DAMMIT!!
DO YOU WANNA MARRY ME OR NOT?!
...
HUH?!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SAID WE SHOULD DO IT RIGHT AWAY!!
S-S-S...
S-Sorry
Huh?
What's the hold-up?!
What?!
WOOF
WOOF
WOOF
A-ANYWAY..
...JUST SET A DATE, OKAY?!
AL-RIGHT...
WOOF
OH!
BLUSH
WOOF

I'M QUITE CERTAIN MASTER SHUREN ...
...SPENDS HER DAYS ARRANGING FLOWERS AND PERFORMING TEA CEREMONIES RATHER THAN TAKING PART IN THE FAMILY BUSINESS.
...WISHES FOR YOU TO LIVE THE LIFE OF A WOMAN LIKE HER TOO.
I HAVE TO GO NOW...
BUT I'LL JOIN YOU WHENEVER YOU GO OUT AGAIN.
NO, THANK YOU.
We don't need you.
My stupid father likes you more than me.
Why is it just you, Seijuro...?
WHO, WHO
HE'S PRETTY NICE.
I DID IT! I HAD A CONVERSATION WITH HER!
BPMP
BPMP
MY ELDER SISTER, HAMANASU ...
BEMP

What do the characters of Jiu Jiu fear most and who do they hate?
Saitama Prefecture: Yui
That question sounds kind of mean now that I boiled it down to one line
Anyway, here are the answers
...
...
...I got nothing.
Umm...
Well, I love Takamichi. And I love going for walks! I like taking baths and eating snacks and reading manga too, but my favorite will always be Takamichi.
Hey, Snow! The question is what scares you and what you hate. What you like is irrelevant!
Anyway, I love Mistress Takamichi more than you!
...I got nothing.
Women... Especially the women who are after Miko. They're scary, loathsome and horrifying...
...but not all women aren't scary.
...
TIME OUT.
Uh...men? After all, all men are wolves right?
I'm so scared!
That sounds funny coming from a woman
Come to think of it, they all hate so many things and are scared of so many things I couldn't come up with a clear answer
By the way, Hotoko calls Miss Kitty Cat like that because it sounds cute
Oh, I forget to answer what I don't like
YEAH...
SEIJURO, I MEAN.
HE ALREADY IS OUR SERVANT.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, SNOW...?
OWW...
IF WE PLAY OUR CARDS RIGHT, I THINK WE CAN TURN HIM INTO OUR SERVANT!
I'M NOT GOING TO TELL YOU TO BOW TO HIM...
H...
H-HEY... You guys...
...BUT...

I'll kill you!!
Hey, black one...
GIVING SOMEONE YOUR DIARY...
...AS A PRESENT IS TOTALLY WHACK!
HEY! THAT'S ...!!!
Sssss Sssss
YOU'RE NOT...
... WHITE, ARE YOU?
OH, HI...
WHAT DO YOU WANT, MIKA...?


That isn't a cage!! It's our room!!
Who do you think you are?
...
DIARY
YOU JUST BROKE INTO THE ROOM OF AN ENGAGED WOMEN WITHOUT TAKING OFF YOUR SHOES AND YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT BAD TASTE?!
YOU PUT A CAGE IN THE MIDDLE OF YOUR BEDROOM? THAT'S IN BAD TASTE.
YOU'RE MAKING A MISTAKE. A BIG MISTAKE.

I'm sorry.

Since it took this volume a year to come out, I have a year's worth of questions to answer.

Thank you!

I've received lots of nice fan art too!!

Unfortunately, some fans apparently look forward to my silly four-panel manga and silly side-stories, so I won't be able to answer all your questions
There just aren't enough pages... Wahhh!!
But I've received all your letters expressing your appreciation!!
Thank you very, very much!!

Okay, 90% ladies group! Follow me to vol. 5!!

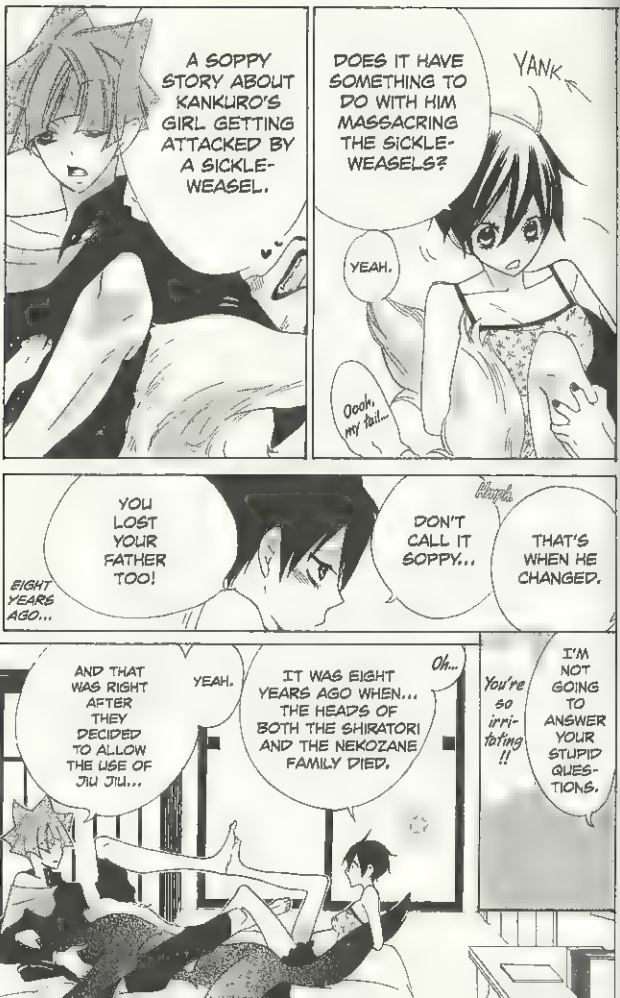
I apologize
My sincerest apologies

But please continue to support me. Really My life depends upon it.

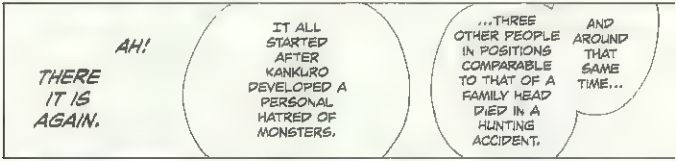
Touya Yoshimi Tobina
My real name

Oops. The artwork is protruding beyond the panel border

AREN'T YOU A LITTLE OBSESSED WITH KANKURO? IS IT BECAUSE HE'S THE SHIRATORI FAMILY HEAD...?
MIKA ...
DON'T GIVE ME THAT PITYING LOOK.
ARE YOU STUPID, OR WHAT?
IT'S GOTTA BE KANKURO!
WHAT IS HE IN SUCH A HURRY FOR...?!
I WAS TOLD TO GET ACCUSTOMED TO THE HACHIOJI WAY OF LIFE... ...BEFORE WE MARRY...
I JUST ASSUMED...
...THIS WAS MY ANNOYING FATHER'S—
YANK
I'm getting tired of this myself.
BUT HE'S A MEMBER OF THE ANTI-JIU JIU FACTION, SO I CAN'T IGNORE HIM.
BUT THE SHIRATORI CLAN USES JIU JIU TOO!
The Thea is humiliating!
But I can't resist—
KANKURO ANNIHILATED THE...
OUR FAMILY'S LINE OF WORK WOULD BE A BETTER FIT FOR SOMEONE ...LIKE THAT, BUT.
KANKURO HATES MONSTERS FROM THE BOTTOM OF HIS HEART.
THAT'S NO SURPRISE ...
Whoa! You're ignoring me! I don't like it!!

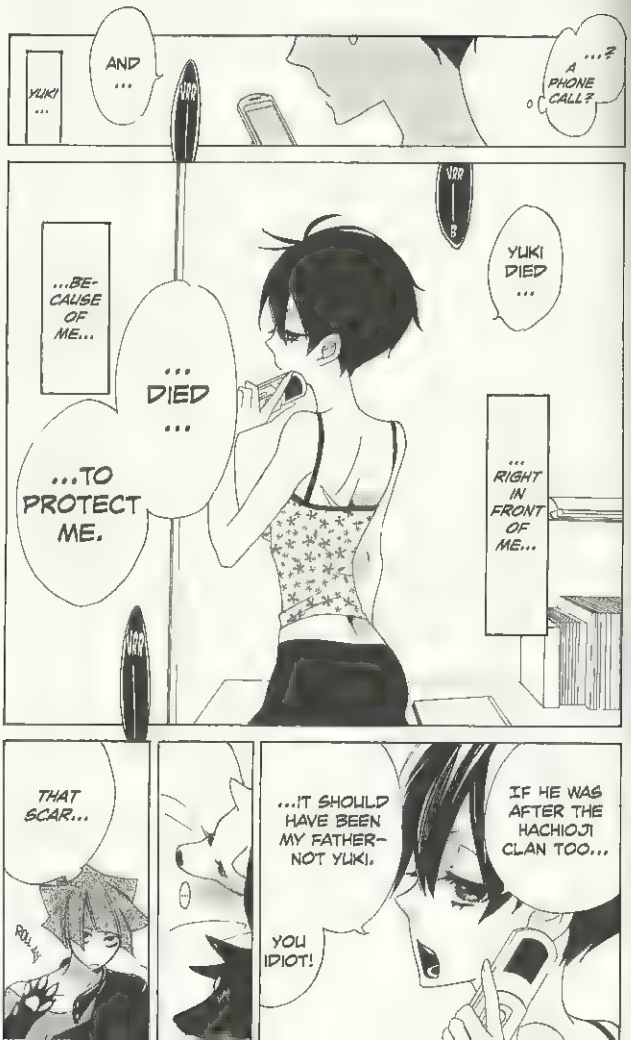

A SOPPY STORY ABOUT KANKURO'S GIRL GETTING ATTACKED BY A SICKLE-WEASEL.
DOES IT HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH HIM MASSACRING THE SICKLE-WEASELS?
YANK
YEAH.
Oooh, my tail...
YOU LOST YOUR FATHER TOO!
EIGHT YEARS AGO...
DON'T CALL IT SOPPY...
blurgh
THAT'S WHEN HE CHANGED.
AND THAT WAS RIGHT AFTER THEY DECIDED TO ALLOW THE USE OF JIU JIU...
YEAH.
IT WAS EIGHT YEARS AGO WHEN... THE HEADS OF BOTH THE SHIRATORI AND THE NEKOZANE FAMILY DIED.
Oh...
You're so irri-tating !!
I'M NOT GOING TO ANSWER YOUR STUPID QUES-TIONS.

AND THEN...
...
TAKAYUKI
...


AH!
THERE IT IS AGAIN.
IT ALL STARTED AFTER KANKURO DEVELOPED A PERSONAL HATRED OF MONSTERS.
...THREE OTHER PEOPLE IN POSITIONS COMPARABLE TO THAT OF A FAMILY HEAD DIED IN A HUNTING ACCIDENT.
AND AROUND THAT SAME TIME...

AND KANKURO IS THE ONE WHO IS...
...PRESSURING YOU TWO TO GET MARRIED. THERE'S GOTTA BE SOME REASON BEHIND IT...
THERE ISN'T.

IT DOESN'T MATTER.
EVEN IF KANKURO IS ONE OF THOSE WHO WANTS TO ABOLISH THE JILI JILI SYSTEM.
I'M GOING TO MARRY SEIJURO ANYWAY, SOONER OR LATER.
Work...
VRRR


YUKI ...
AND ...
...? A PHONE CALL?
YUKI DIED ...
... RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME...
... DIED ...
...BE-CAUSE OF ME...
...TO PROTECT ME.
IF HE WAS AFTER THE HACHIOJI CLAN TOO...
...IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN MY FATHER- NOT YUKI.
YOU IDIOT!
THAT SCAR...

SEIJURO ...?
BRRRRNG
BRRRRNG
BZZ
WHAT IS IT?
MISTRESS TAKAMICHI ...
!
IS THAT TOO SOON ...?
MY ELDER BROTHER SAID TOMORROW ...
ABOUT THE BETROTHAL GIFTS...
...SAID MY NAME AGAIN...
SHE ...
UM, YES ...
IT'S FINE.
IDIOT.
HAND IT OVER!
MIKA ?!
?!
!

...SHE WON'T BE ABLE TO VISIT HIM.
... THAT ...
TELL YOUR BIG BROTHER ...
ZHLOOOP
HEY.
...
I KNOW THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO DON'T ACCEPT JIU JIU!
THAT'S WHY...
"HASO" ...?
CHAK
Anyway
why is he calling from right in front of the house?!
He doesn't want to be with me until we're officially married?
He's a mass-murderer?
GET AWAY FROM ME! Idiot!
M...
HI-HIS TRESS TAKA-MICHI
...
IT'S FREEZING ...!!
WHY DO YOU APPEAR LIKE THAT IN FRONT OF MIKA, OF ALL PEOPLE ...!!
GIVE IT
THIS ISN'T ANY OF YOUR BUSH-NESS
GIVE IT BACK
!
CURRENT.Y JANUARY MIDWINTER

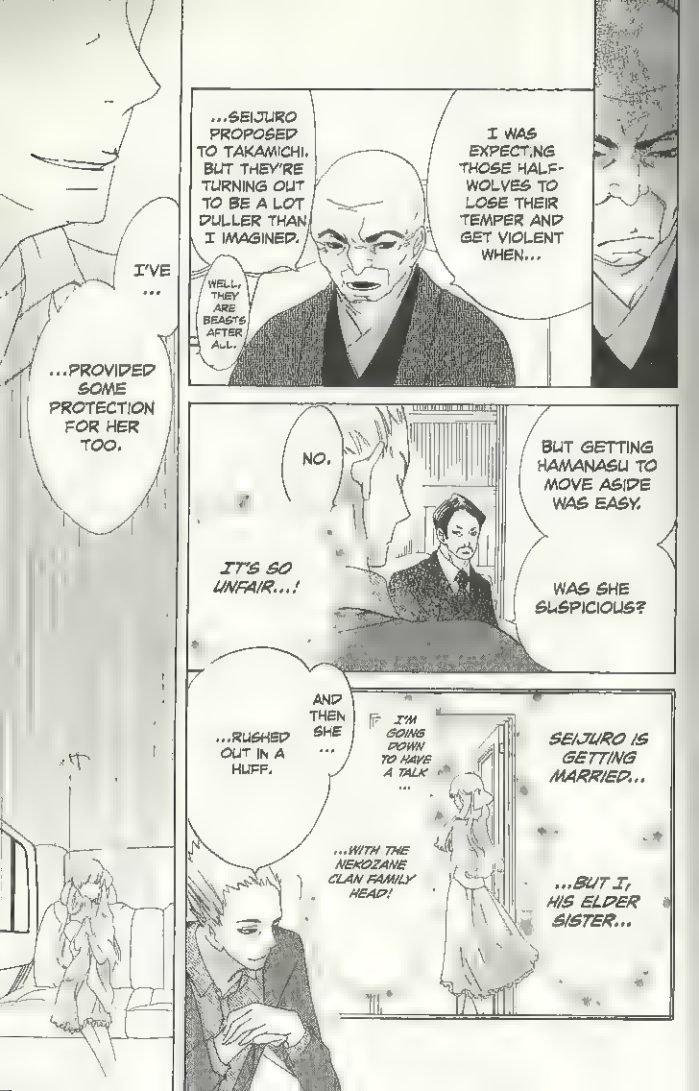
IN PLACE OF YUKI.
...BECOME THE FAMILY HEAD OF THE HACHIOJI CLAN.
...I'M GOING TO...
I'M GETTING MARRIED SO I CAN...
...PROTECT SNOW AND NIGHT.
...

EVEN IF THAT MEANS YOU END UP...
HE PROTECTED ME...
...LIKE TAKA-YUKI?
HA! THAT'S THE...
...STUPID-EST PLAN I'VE EVER HEARD.

I COULD USE SOME BIG DOGS AROUND THE HOUSE.
HEY...
...YOU GUYS...
YOU'VE GOT AN OPEN INVITATION.

WHERE'S YOUR CROW GIRL?
THE FAMILY HEAD... IS TRAVELING... WITHOUT A SERVANT?
GET YOUR BUTT OFF MY BIKE, WILL YOU?!
OH?
AS IN... ASSASSINATING PEOPLE?
...
RIPPLE IS OUT HUNTING ...
HAVE YOU SEEN THE SCAR ON THAT STUPID GIRL'S BACK?
TCH.
YOU OUGHT TO DENY THAT AT LEAST
I don't believe you.
?
HER... BACK?
VRRRR
VRM
VRM
VRM

FYU
TAKE GOOD CARE...
...OF TAKA-MICHI.
...SEIJURO.
URM
URM
WHAT WERE YOU DOING IN HER BED-ROOM?!
IT'S OKAY..
URM
VRRM
...KAN-KURO?
YOU'RE PLANNING SOMETHING... AREN'T YOU...
WELL?
NOTHING SPECIAL, THAT IS.
NAH.
SHE'S COMING HERE TOMORROW ...


...SEIJURO PROPOSED TO TAKAMICHI. BUT THEY'RE TURNING OUT TO BE A LOT DULLER THAN I IMAGINED.
I WAS EXPECTING THOSE HALF-WOLVES TO LOSE THEIR TEMPER AND GET VIOLENT WHEN...
WELL, THEY ARE BEASTS AFTER ALL.
I'VE ...
...PROVIDED SOME PROTECTION FOR HER TOO.
NO.
BUT GETTING HAMANASU TO MOVE ASIDE WAS EASY.
IT'S SO UNFAIR...!
WAS SHE SUSPICIOUS?
AND THEN SHE ...
...RUSHED OUT IN A HUFF.
I'M GOING DOWN TO HAVE A TALK ...
...WITH THE NEKOZANE CLAN FAMILY HEAD!
SEIJURO IS GETTING MARRIED...
...BUT I, HIS ELDER SISTER...

DON'T WORRY ABOUT A THING...
...
MISTRESS HAMANASU.

I'M GLAD YOU'RE MY BODYGUARD.
I'D NEVER BE ABLE TO INDULGE IN SUCH GIRL TALK WITH YOUR BIG BROTHER.
Ha ha.

RIPPLE ...
SMILE

IT WILL BE...
...A SHORT TRIP.

HE WAS PREPARED FOR THE WORST...
YUKI...
COME TO THINK OF IT...

WE'LL ALWAYS BE TOGETHER- AS YOU WISH.
DON'T WORRY ... ... TAKA-MICHI.
...CARRIED THE-LOAD...
AND HE...
...ALL BY HIMSELF.
NIGHT ...
...WHATEVER YOU WANT US TO BE.
AND WE'LL BECOME...

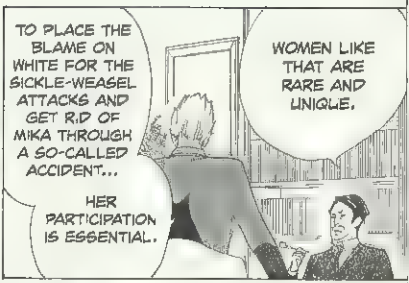
YOU'RE NOT MISTRESS TAKAMICHI...
...SO DON'T GIVE ME ORDERS!
YOU CAN GET IN THEIR WAY. I'LL DO THAT TOO. BUT YOU MUSTN'T BITE HIM.
I CAN'T GUARANTEE I WON'T GET IN THEIR WAY.
YOU MUSN'T BITE SE.JURO- EVEN IF HE IS MARRIED TO TAKAMICHI.
HEY, SNOW ...
Never.
IF YOU WANT...
... WHATEVER TAKAMICHI WANTS US TO BE.
WE'RE GOING TO BECOME ...
...
...BECOME ORDINARY DOGS... WHO CAN'T TALK.
... WE'LL ...

IF THAT WOULD MAKE MISTRESS TAKAMICHI HAPPY...
SO...
...PLEASE... ORDER US TO...
...RUN AWAY WITH YOU!!

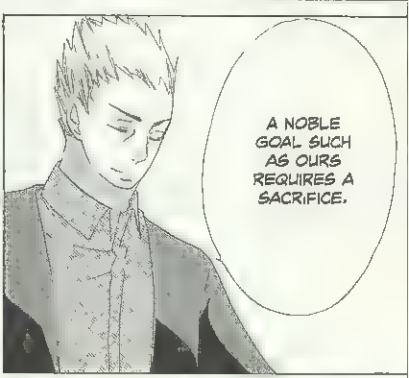
SNOW...
NIGHT...
TAKE CARE OF THE HOUSE WHILE I'M GONE.
MIKA... YOU'RE GOING TO THE HACHIOJI'S PLACE?
WHAT'S TAKING ... MIKA SO LONG?
PLEASE ORDER US TO RUN AWAY WITH YOU.
...TAKAMICHI!
YOU'LL ALWAYS HAVE US...

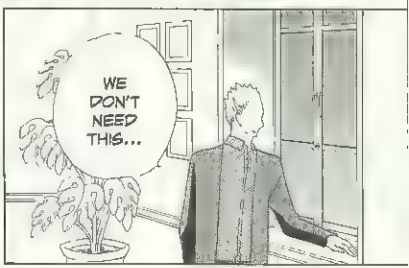
IF YOU JUST WANT TO SEE MISTRESS TAKAMICHI...
...I COULD ALWAYS TRANSFORM MYSELF INTO HER FOR YOU.
THUD
I'VE CONVINCED EVERYBODY THAT YOU CAN ONLY TRANSFORM YOURSELF INTO ME.
SO DON'T TRANSFORM INTO ANYONE ELSE WHI..E I'M AWAY!
Damn.
BOOOOO..!
HASN'T MISS WHAT'S-HER-NAME COME OVER TO SEE YOU...?
WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO DYE MY HAIR TOO?
WHITE ...
IF YOU EVER DO THAT AGAIN, I'M GOING TO BEAT THE LIVING DAYLIGHTS OUT OF YOU.
JUST MAKE SOME SMA..L TALK AND GET RID OF HER.
... HE SAYS THE WOMEN OF THE EIGHT CLANS LACK A SIXTH SENSE SO THEY WON'T BE ABLE TO TELL IT'S ME, BUT...
I HOPE HE ISN'T PLANNING TO USE ME AS HIS DOUBLE ALL THE TIME...
That's how come all the servants are female.
...
BRRR...
IT'S TOO BAD, THOUGH, KANKURO...
ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT HAMANASU ...?

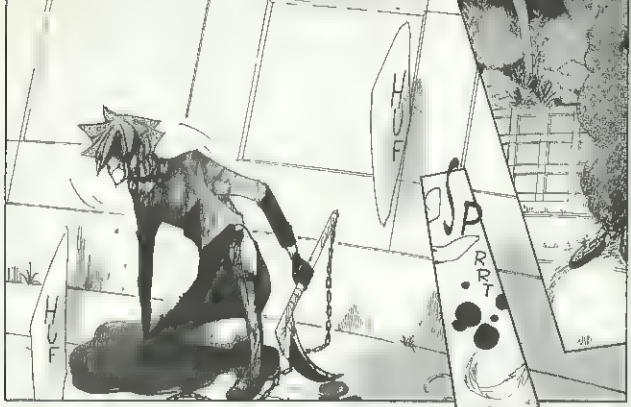
ZOV ZOV
TWT
CH

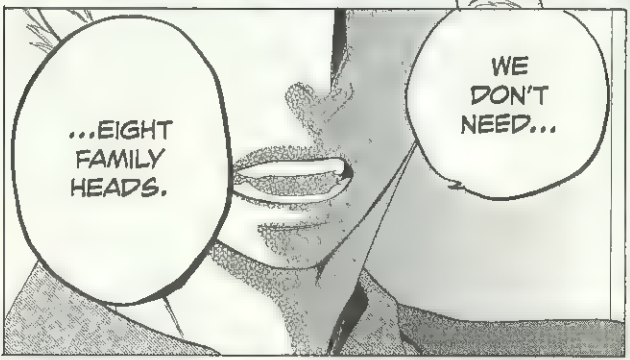

TO PLACE THE BLAME ON WHITE FOR THE SICKLE-WEASEL ATTACKS AND GET R.D OF MIKA THROUGH A SO-CALLED ACCIDENT...
HER PARTICIPATION IS ESSENTIAL.
WOMEN LIKE THAT ARE RARE AND UNIQUE.

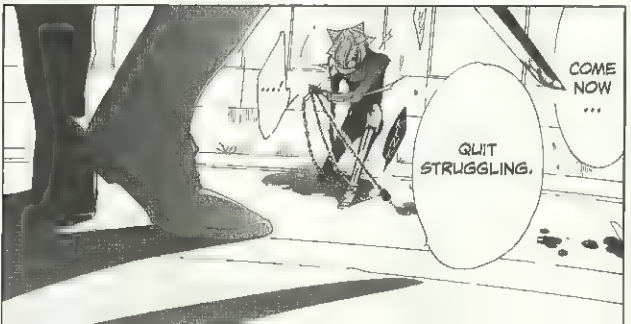
EXCUSE ME...
MASTER MIKA...?

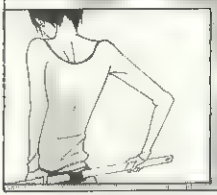

A NOBLE GOAL SUCH AS OURS REQUIRES A SACRIFICE.


WE DON'T NEED THIS...


HUF
HUF
SP
RRT


WE DON'T NEED...
...EIGHT FAMILY HEADS.


COME NOW ...
QUIT STRUGGLING.
....



I'M NOT YUKI.

THAT'S RIGHT.

BUT I HAVE ...
ARE YOU READY?
... SNOW AND NIGHT.
SNOW ...
NIGHT ...
WITH YOU TWO BY MY SIDE...
...I'M INVINCIBLE.
SO...

JIU JIU 4: THE END

To be continued...

ISN'T THIS WHAT WE'RE SUPPOSED TO WEAR?
YOU LIKE THESE COSTUMES?
OOH, SNOW! NIGHT!
THE HACHIOJIS HAVE NEVER CELEBRATED HALLOWEEN BEFORE...
...SO WE DECIDED TO HOST A COSTUME PARTY FOR THEM.
Seamen: Silver Arm
Fan Service Scene 3
Class 2-A and All Hallow's Eve
Uhhh... Kind of, but...
HOW DO I PUT THIS...?
We approve.
I approve too.
OH WELL...
WE'LL SHOW YOU WHAT YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO WEAR ON HALLOWEEN!
HA...
BUT THIS IS MY COSTUME.
YOU'RE WEARING YOUR EVERYDAY CLOTHES !!
R-Really...?
I'VE GOT IT! MERU IS BOUND TO HAVE THE PROPER ATTIRE...
AH!
After all– he is a vampire.

STUFF LIKE THIS.
Trick OR Treat!
NO KILLING!! GLARE
We want to have a Halloween party!!
Why would it?!
NAH.
I HAVE A FEELING THIS IS GONNA END IN A BLOODBATH...